

# THE U.F.A.

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THE UNITED FARMERS of ALBERTA

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No. 8

## The Red Herring in Politics

How It Is Used in Canadian Parliament to Prevent Serious Discussion of Vitally Important Economic Issues—  
Weariness of the Common People Proves Godsend to Rulers in the Financial World — Credit  
Reform Deserves as Fair Hearing as Was Given to Discoverers in Realm  
of Physical Science

By Lloyd Roberts

PRESS GALLERY, OTTAWA, March 10.—All is fair in love and war—and politics, it seems. If a bill is distasteful, kill it if you can and don't be finicky over the manner of its dying.

### ONE ESSENTIAL OF PARTY POLITICS

In a democracy the will of the majority is supposed to govern; in reality it is the vote. It is not the same thing, by any means. In party politics it is essential that the will be kept subservient to the vote. The will, left to itself, is sometimes guided by ideals and ethics, which might embarrass the party, if not wreck it altogether. Now, there are many ways of influencing the will. The cuttlefish method is one of the most popular. Blanket the objectionable feature in darkness and dispatch it at leisure. Or, to use another fishy trick, drag a red herring across the trail. There's the anti-race track gambling resolution, for instance; and the divorce bill; and the plea for public control of credit; just to mention some recent cases. Not one of these ideas was permitted to be argued on its merits.

The member for Brant, W. C. Good, felt deeply grieved when his motion, "that the special privilege given to racing associations under the Criminal Code of carrying on public gambling operations in connection with their race meetings is detrimental to the best interests of Canada and should be abolished", was taken away from him, "amended" into another substantive motion, and carried by a large majority. As J. L. Brown of Lisgar pointed out, amidst a roar of laughter, all that was left of the main motion was the word "That". It was not (in the mover's words) "fair or in accordance with the spirit of the rules of this House or of any British Parliament", but it certainly extracted the kick from the resolution while leaving it in the horse.

### STEP TOWARDS EQUALITY OF THE SEXES

J. T. Shaw's bill, "designed to establish equality as between husband and wife so far as the grounds for divorce are concerned", in the four Western Provinces, unexpectedly passed its second reading in spite of a malodorous herring dragged in to confuse the issue. The honorable enemy had prepared his attack with meticulous care. His eloquence, couched in early Victorian style, rang through the chamber so silent you could almost hear a tear drop. The fact that it had not the slightest bearing on the subject under debate was insufficient reason, it seems, for ruling him out of order. Perhaps it is just as well to allow such "freedom of speech" now and then. Although it wastes the time and patience of the members, there is seldom a dearth of either, and it makes the elocutionist happy for the rest of the ses-

"The U. F. A." has arranged for an occasional article on Federal affairs by Lloyd Roberts, whose first contribution appears in this issue. Mr. Roberts is a well known press gallery correspondent of independent outlook, and a contributor to various progressive periodicals in Canada and the United States. He is a son of the Canadian poet and author, Charles G. D. Roberts.

sion. . . Another step has been taken in the age-long battle for the equality of the sexes.

### THE RED HERRING IN ECONOMICS

But the red herring seems most effective where the question of economics is concerned. It is a delicate enough scent without weakening it with personalities and prejudices. Few members appear willing to follow it, even when it emanates from the Always Right. They might sing in chorus, "The old-time system is good enough for me." "Why not leave well-enough alone?" was the Government's chief answer to Labor pleading for experimentation. J. S. Woodsworth urged that "it is not in the interests of the country at large that the privilege of issuing currency and of controlling financial credit should be granted to private corporations."

### CREDIT REFORM PROPOSALS DESERVE FAIR HEARING

It is not surprising that men like Otto H. Kahn, the New York banker, should resent such "radicalism". In his view the element of paramount importance "is the remarkable demonstration afforded by the elections in France, England, America and Germany, that the preponderating sentiment of the people is tired and weary of commotion, controversy, agitation and experiment, from whatsoever quarter emanating and to whatever end directed." Such weariness is a Godsend to those in high financial places.

But what about our Parliamentarians coming from constituencies distraught over increasing unemployment, poverty and crime? Can they afford to sleep in their chairs, or write letters, or retreat to the lobby whenever a possible way out is advocated? Public ownership of credit may not be the cure-all for social ills, any more than concentration in the hands of the few has proved to be, but it at least deserves a fair hearing, such as the steam locomotive and telephone demanded and eventually got.

And yet we hear a member declaring in the midst of the debate, "I do not know that I have seen anything more tragic and pitiable since I have been a member of this House than the empty benches opposite". . . . As for the red herring, it made its appearance in a very old and unsavory form: "I really cannot understand anything in the speech of my honorable friend", admitted the Acting Minister of Finance, "unless it is that he wants Canada to adopt the methods which were tried out in Russia and which were a failure." How could any honest dog keep the trail after that?

Now on February 23rd last it was agreed that "a revision of the rules is desirable", and a special committee was appointed to "consider and report upon such revision". Many criticisms and complaints were aired, but not one voice was raised against the worst offender of them all—the red herring in politics!

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## EDITORIAL

As Lloyd Roberts suggests in an Ottawa despatch published elsewhere in this issue, a solution of our economic problems is unlikely to be found by the rulers in the financial world. There is no more reason for accepting their advice as necessarily disinterested, than there would be for accepting all the official opinions of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association as essentially disinterested. Valuable pioneer work is being done in the House of Commons by a number of elected representatives. The time will come when it will bring results.

## \* \* \*

## "SURVIVAL OF THE FITTEST"

The U. F. A., says C. R. Mitchell, is a "splendid" organization, which has rendered services of immense value to the Province of Alberta. This splendid organization, however, which has rendered such conspicuous services, is altogether unsound and evil in its fundamental principles, and its chief function is the setting of "class against class". It also believes in the pernicious doctrine of "expediency", says Mr. Mitchell, and in "the survival of the fittest".

We do not know exactly what all this means, or whether it is intended to mean anything, but there is at least this to be said about the matter: the U. F. A. has been the means of excluding from the control of Provincial affairs, regarded from a business standpoint, a number of the manifestly less fit.

## \* \* \*

## ALBERTA'S FINANCES

We believe that a study of the very clear statements presented in the public accounts, and the figures which accompanied the budget brought down in the Legislature last week by R. G. Reid, the Provincial Treasurer, will be sufficient to convince impartial students of public affairs that the record of the Government, in economy and administrative efficiency, is a highly creditable one. While uncontrollable expenditure has been increasing, the Government has effected a reduction of controllable and semi-controllable expenditure in three years, by \$1,171,864.14, without sacrificing the efficiency of any branch of the public service. At the same time new and onerous responsibilities have been imposed upon some of the departments.

Whatever may be our opinion upon the permanent validity of customary methods of financing, there can be no doubt that, working within the existing system, burdened with a heavy overdraft inherited from a past which cannot be excluded from consideration, the Government, by sheer hard work and efficiency and the exercise of economy, has proved itself, in the only legitimate sense of the term, a business Government.

The decision to maintain existing services was wisely taken. To have abandoned any of them, as some advocates of the panicky policy of "cut at any price" have unwisely urged, would have meant the passing of the burden to others, largely to the municipalities. Not only would it have brought no relief to the citizen taxpayer; it would have served merely

to increase his difficulties by necessitating the creation, at considerable expense, of new machinery, to replace the efficiently running machinery now available. For the seeds of efficiency are beginning to bear fruit. From the standpoint of the Provincial Government finances, the outlook, in spite of serious difficulties ahead, is more hopeful than it has been for many years past.

The situation revealed by the deficit in the Telephone Department, and the fact of rapid deterioration of much of the plant, will sooner or later have to be faced. The facts are fairly well known. Proper provision for replacement has not been made by past Governments, in spite of heavy financial outlay at peak prices for certain classes of material. The time is coming when much replacement must be undertaken. Possibly the sooner the situation is faced, the better.

\* \* \*

There could be no more damning indictment of the Senate than the statement that it has now become the direct servant and representative of the financial leaders and of the financial powers. It is well that this should be recognized, and it will be well that the veto powers of the Senate shall be curtailed—since public opinion is not ripe for more fundamental measures. But even when this is accomplished, if it is accomplished, more insidious forms of control of public policy by the financial powers will remain.

\* \* \*

## PANIC AND POWER

"We must have action at once; in a few weeks it will be too late," the mayor of an Alberta city is reported to have said recently in discussing the Spray Lakes Hydro-Electric proposition.

It is this kind of ill-balanced statement, this manufacturing of supposed emergencies, that was responsible in large measure for the reckless public policies which characterized the days of the last period of artificial expansion of public service enterprises, when the city of Calgary placed its neck under the yoke of a gas company which it has had to fight from year to year ever since. It is this kind of panic-mongering that led to the rapid alienation of the richest of Canada's natural resources, for private exploitation. The natural gas services of Southern Alberta are now owned by financial interests with headquarters in New York. One of the dangers of private exploitation of Alberta's natural resources is that they may be brought under the control of the great financial interests which are seeking to attain complete domination of the economic life of North America.

It is of far less importance that the natural resources should be developed rapidly, than that they should be developed in the interests of present and future generations of citizens. The manner in which such development can be assured is a matter partly for experts, but sound economic policy will depend mainly upon the growth of sound public opinion.

\* \* \*

## "BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION", AND PARTY POLITICS

The establishment under the party system of a "business administration" would be a miracle, and this kind of miracle does not happen. As members of the Liberal party in the Legislature would no doubt be the first to admit in private, the exercise of ordinary business sense must be sacrificed in the debates in the Assembly, by party men, to the attempt to score petty political advantages.

\* \* \*

In no field of effort has the accomplishment of the U. F. A. Government been greater than in that of administration. The departments are more efficiently run, with greater economy, than at any time in the past history of the Province. The Government has had time to attend to business, because the Government's function is not the building up of a

(Continued on page 22)

# Budget Debate Dominates Proceedings in the Alberta Legislature---Chamber Unanimously Adopts Resolution on Senate Reform and Canada's Right to Amend Constitution

Donald Cameron Would Abolish "Home for Broken Down Politicians"—Assembly Discusses Immigration and Amendments to Liquor Act—Committee to Consider Report of Royal Grain Inquiry Board — Mitchell Says Real Deficit Nearly a Million

## Staff Correspondence

### Immigration Policy Proposed in Motion Adopted by Assembly

Greenfield Moves Resolution in Speech Calling for Co-operation Between British, Canadian and Provincial Governments—Mitchell Supports

#### MONDAY'S SITTING

EDMONTON, March 9.—Expressing the opinion that a "well-directed immigration policy is in the interests of the Dominion," the Legislature adopted without opposition today, a resolution moved by Premier Greenfield and seconded by Mrs. Parlby, commanding a definite policy to the consideration of the Dominion Government. The resolution was in the following terms:

That, while the responsibility for framing and carrying into effect immigration policies rests primarily with the Dominion Government, the result of such policies seriously affects the welfare of the Province in creating demand for extensions of Provincial services and making possible problems of unemployment;

Therefore, believing that a sound and well-directed immigration policy is in the interests of the Dominion, this House is of the opinion that the Dominion Government in framing its immigration policy for the future should, as far as possible, have regard to:

1. The consolidation of colonization settlement and the relation of such settlement to existing public services.
2. A careful selection of immigrants.
3. A reasonable supervision of immigrants during and after settlement, and that in framing such policy there should be full co-operation between the Dominion and the Provinces, not only to ensure the successful settlement of the land, but also to avoid duplication of effort and expense.

#### REVIEWS HISTORY OF PEOPLING OF CANADA

In moving the resolution, Premier Greenfield reviewed the story of the peopling of Canada, and particularly of the West, from the time of the construction of the Canadian Pacific Railway. As a consequence of the belief that the influx of population would be maintained, he said, two new transcontinental lines had been built, and a stimulation of land values and increase in agricultural development with consequent business expansion occurred. That expansion proved to be not soundly based.

"There has been a period during the reaction from the war," said Mr. Greenfield, "when the wisdom of an aggressive immigration policy was questioned by a great many people, and without ques-

The debate on the budget introduced last week by R. G. Reid, Provincial Treasurer, now occupies the foreground in the proceedings of the Legislative Assembly.

Adoption of a resolution on immigration; rejection by a close vote of a resolution calling for the bonding of lawyers; and the passing by unanimous vote of a resolution stating that the Senate as now constituted "is not of greatest advantage to Canada," and calling upon the Federal Government to take steps to obtain for the Dominion power to amend its own constitution, formed features of the past week.

C. R. Mitchell, in the budget debate, made an attack on the U. F. A., repeating the charges against the farmers' organization already made familiar by political party leaders. The Association, he said, was in general a "splendid" movement which had accomplished an immense amount of good, but should never have entered the field of politics. The fundamental principles of the U. F. A., he declared, were the setting of "class against class."

tion, there was justification for this attitude. But this is changing and changing rapidly. The post-war situation, which brought about the general depression in the agricultural industry and which automatically reflected itself on general business in Canada, is passing. It is true that in some districts of the Province we still have difficulties and adverse conditions to rectify, insofar as it is possible to do so, but the fact remains that agricultural conditions, from the broad Provincial standpoint, have improved and are still improving in this Province."

#### THREE FUNDAMENTAL THINGS NEEDED

The fundamental things within human control needed by Western agriculture, declared the Premier, were (1) A system of long term intermediate credit; (2) improved marketing conditions; (3) debt reduction, national and Provincial, with a consequent reduction of taxation; (4) reduction of transportation costs.

Considerable progress had been made in the last two years in the matter of farm credits, and the Alberta Government stood ready to co-operate with the Dominion in working out a solution of the problem. The mortgage and loan companies were beginning to realize that the problem had to be met. Much progress had been made in marketing, and further improvements were looked for in the new Canada Grain Act. There had been a tremendous amount of irresponsible talk about reduction of debt and taxes, "but", added the Premier, "in my

judgment Canada cannot hope to make any appreciable reduction—in fact, there is more likely to be an increase—so long as our population remains where it is today. The answer, here, then, is that we must increase our population and spread the burden over a larger number of people."

The only way to reduce freight rates materially and permanently was to increase tonnage, which meant increased colonization. "Not for many years have conditions been as favorable as they are today for incoming settlers prepared to go on the land and anxious to get their living from the land," the Premier continued. Land and livestock were low in prices, taxation light as compared with the countries from which it was hoped to obtain the greater part of the desired immigration.

The need of Canada was more people, not to open up new unsettled areas, but to thicken up existing settlements, where there were railways, schools and roads, and so increase revenue from taxation and increase railway tonnage without unduly increasing capital expenditure on the facilities of civilization. Free homestead lands were almost gone, and to continue the homestead plan would mean thinly spread population and new demands for railways, etc. The alternative was thick settlement, and that "necessarily involves financing the purchase of land in areas where these facilities now exist."

Premier Greenfield said the problem must be solved before national and Provincial debts and taxation could be reduced, educational and hospital facilities improved, revenue increased without increased capital expenditure. Co-ordination of the efforts of Imperial, Federal and Provincial Governments, transportation organizations and others interested, was necessary, and "the Government of Alberta stands ready to co-operate in working out a comprehensive scheme of colonization looking to the placing of people on the land."

#### ONLY PEOPLE WILLING TO GO ON LAND

"In my judgment, Canadian immigration efforts should, for the present at least, be confined to securing people who are prepared to go on the land. We should not encourage people to come to our towns and cities, and thereby add to our unemployment problems. Experience has shown that the settler who stays with the land is the man with a family, who has the normal ambition to establish for himself a home, and that previous agricultural experience is not essential to success on the land in this country."

Going on to say that he had discussed the matter recently with British peo-

ple, the Premier stated that all the persons consulted agreed that opportunities to establish a home were greater here than in Britain, while the moderately priced lands of Western Canada and lower production costs were attracting widespread attention among the farmers of the United States.

A policy of thickening up existing settlements involved "financing incoming settlers for the purchase of land—a large undertaking, but in the opinion of financial men of considerable standing, by no means an impossible one."

Mr. Greenfield pointed out that the British Empire Settlement Scheme gave financial assistance to British people who desired to settle within the empire, and suggested that the British Government should be approached, the direct purpose being to supplement their effort, with a proposal that a board similar to the British Empire Board should be created in Canada to include two or three of the best financial men in Canada, whose standing would insure that investments were sound and that security given was adequate and payment reasonably protected.

Negotiations should then be undertaken with the Provincial Government to select definite areas with good soil, adequate precipitation, where railways, schools and roads now exist, the Provincial authorities to select the areas, provide necessary direction upon arrival of settlers and advise in purchase of stock, etc., and generally protect the settler after arrival from exploitation.

#### ISSUE LAND BONDS TO NEW SETTLERS

Given this co-operation between the three Governments, the areas having been approved by the Provinces first, then by the Dominion and Empire Boards, the Dominion Board should then have power to issue land bonds to an amount necessary to finance each project as undertaken, and sell the bonds on the amortization plan, on long terms, to settlers. It might be necessary to finance moderate improvements on unimproved lands. The security would be the land itself. The Board would be the largest land purchasing agency in Canada, and could therefore check any tendency to inflate land values unduly. If some kind of Government guarantee were necessary to keep interest rates low, it might be good business to provide it.

"I believe such a scheme would appeal to the biggest men in the financial world in Canada," said the Premier, "and it needs and calls for the best we have." He added that the average loan need not be heavy, as many settlers would have some capital. The scheme might be extended later to countries other than Britain, and also to Canadian people desirous of going on the land.

#### BROADER VIEW THAN U. F. A. SAYS MITCHELL

"It did not take the carefully worded address of the Prime Minister to convince us of the need of immigration," said C. R. Mitchell, Liberal leader, in rising to support the resolution. A much broader view of the needs of Canada and the Province had been revealed in the Premier's remarks than was displayed in the attitude of the U. F. A., declared Mr. Mitchell, "and," he added, "I am glad that this Government is going to throw that resolution of the U. F. A. Convention over, bag and baggage." With proper effort immigrants coming into Alberta could make a good living.

The existing services, the Liberal leader believed, could take care of a much larger population than Alberta possessed. He regretted that "the more definite statements of the Premier" on immigration were not incorporated in the resolution which was "indifferent, anaemic and stale". No commonsense Government could do otherwise than to put forth an effort to thicken settlement. It was unfortunate that some clauses in the resolution were "mere platitudes, trimmed down so as not to offend the U. F. A. organization". Continuing, Mr. Mitchell declared:

"I desire to place myself as very largely in accord with the more or less definite policy the Premier has suggested, apart from the resolution. If the Provincial Government cannot finance assistance to immigration, then it should withdraw certain services, and utilize the saving to promote immigration. I hope the arguments which have been used against immigration will be set aside," Mr. Mitchell concluded.

#### MRS. PARLBY DISCUSSES ASPECTS OF PROBLEM

Mrs. Parlby, Minister without portfolio, said there was a wide divergence of opinion on the subject of immigration, and many people opposed any action being taken in the matter until the present farmers of Alberta should become prosperous. It was possible to be so greatly affected by suffering that one could not open one's eyes to the larger view. Serious mistakes had been made in land settlement, yet many people had made comfortable homes. Mrs. Parlby strongly protested against any misrepresentation abroad of actual conditions prevailing in this country, but Canada could offer such bountiful things that misrepresentation was not only reprehensible, but also unnecessary as a means of developing settlement.

There had never been in Canada a constructive immigration policy, said Mrs. Parlby. The transportation and Dominion Immigration authorities had brought in crowds in such fashion that the Province had been faced with the serious problem of finding employment for the immigrants. Referring to Captain Pallesen's report and map defining the drought areas, of which there are only three copies in existence, Mrs. Parlby said that this report, prepared many years ago, could hardly be improved upon. If use had been made of it in the past many millions of dollars would have been saved to the Province.

The speaker laid down four principles which, she believed, should be observed in the carrying out of any immigration policy: it should be recognized first that the country which desired immigrants was responsible for placing them in such situations that they might have a reasonable chance to make good; secondly, all services should be co-ordinated; thirdly, there should be assurance that in the carrying out of the policy there should be no exploitation; and, fourthly, the present settlers should make the newcomers welcome, and assist them in adjusting themselves to new conditions.

The resolution met with the approval of W. M. Davidson, Calgary (Independent), who said that the Government was getting the "long view" on this subject. All efforts should be focussed on the necessity to people the Province, the primary responsibility resting with the Dominion Government. A real pioneering

spirit was needed, and not too much paternalism.

Remarking that much evil had resulted from a foolish land policy in the past, Mrs. McClung, Edmonton (Liberal), said that the wrong people had been doing immigration work, and that those who had themselves overcome pioneering difficulties should be engaged in the task. Unscrupulous real estate agents had done much harm. Speaking of the women of talent and culture who had braved the rigors of pioneer life in Alberta, and remained serene and sweet, Mrs. McClung said it was desirable that the board proposed by the Premier should contain at least one of these women as a member.

Stanley Tobin, Leduc (Liberal), commended the resolution and said that he had many successful French, German and Ukrainian settlers in his constituency. He admired the Premier's courage, he said, in acting in opposition to the U. F. A. in this matter.

#### THIRTEEN MILLION DOLLARS AND BONUS TO U. S.

A. G. Andrews, Sedgewick, (U. F. A.), said that local committees should be formed to receive incoming settlers. He pointed out that thirteen million dollars had been spent in immigration propaganda in six years, and that in that period as many people had been lost to the United States as had come into Canada. The object seemed to be to settle abandoned Soldier Settlement Board farms. As a settler on a C. P. R. ready-made farm, Mr. Andrews said experience had shown that a quarter section was far too small, a half section being the minimum acreage required.

Declaring that much harm had been done by "expressions of gloom in Ottawa and in this Province", J. Dechene, Beaver River (Liberal), said he was pleased with the change of attitude which the Government resolution revealed. Increase the population, said he, and municipal financial problems would disappear. It had been admittedly difficult to carry on during the past few years, but the men who ploughed along had made a living. Alberta should spend money on advertising for immigrants.

The U. F. A. Convention resolution, said W. H. Shield, Macleod (U. F. A.), was not a protest against immigration, but against the mistaken policy of the past. Farmers should not have "lack of stamina" charged against them. Success would be achieved through looking forward to development, rather than by looking back to past mistakes. Values had reached rock bottom, and there were real opportunities for newcomers, but the speaker realized that the man without capital would face serious difficulties.

M. C. McKeen, Lac Ste. Anne (U. F. A.), said that the Department of Agriculture could give much assistance to settlers, and every member should endeavor to map out the good areas in his constituency. From 20 years' experience in the North, he could state that strength, mental and physical, willingness to face discouragements, and readiness to take a chance, were essential qualities of any settlers in this territory. Eighty per cent. of the farmers in Lac Ste. Anne were now out of debt.

A. R. McLennan, Edmonton (Liberal), remarked that in Manitoba many of the pioneers who came without money did better than the rest. There had been a severe struggle during the past few years in Alberta for both rural and urban citizens. He was glad to note that the Min-

ister of Agriculture was himself a successful immigrant.

Lorne Proudfoot, Acadia (U. F. A.), urged that means be provided for the assistance of people who had to leave the drought areas. Important amendments to the Bankruptcy Act were needed.

While conditions had been adverse for some years past, said A. L. Sanders, Stettler (U. F. A.), he was optimistic of the future. High freight rates formed a great disability. Albertans should insist on purchasing Alberta-made products. Careful selection of land was of greater importance than selection of settlers.

## Rules of Assembly to Be Revised; Motion to Bond Lawyers Lost

**Sale of Beer in Bottles by Beer Parlors, to Be Taken Away, Will Not Be Permitted—Assembly Calls for Early Provision of Peace River Outlet**

### TUESDAY'S SITTING

EDMONTON, March 10.—Adoption of a resolution calling for the appointment by the Speaker of a special committee to consider the desirability of revising the rules of the Assembly; rejection by 23 votes to 21, of a resolution expressing the opinion that lawyers engaged in the handling of trust funds or making collections should be bonded in substantial sums with responsible bond and guarantee companies; an announcement by the Attorney General that it was not proposed to permit the sale in beer parlors of beer by the bottle to be taken away from the premises; and the adoption by unanimous vote, of a resolution by Premier Greenfield and L. A. Giroux, urging upon the Dominion Government the pressing need for railway construction to ensure the Peace River settlers an outlet to the Pacific coast, and the necessity for an early statement from the presidents of the two transcontinental railway companies on this matter, formed the features of today's sitting. The resolution calling for Peace River railway development asked that any plan for railway construction should as far as possible have regard for the present Provincial railways, in order that the investment of the Provincial Government in them should be preserved.

M. C. McKeen, Lac Ste. Anne (U. F. A.), moved the resolution calling for a committee on the revision of rules. It was seconded by George MacLachlan, Pembina (U. F. A.). Mr. McKeen suggested that the Assembly should open each day at 2 p.m., instead of 3 p.m., and that a majority of the total membership of the Assembly, instead of 20 members, as at present, should be necessary to form a quorum.

### FORSTER CITES CASE FOR BONDING

The resolution on the bonding of legal practitioners provoked a lengthy debate. In moving its adoption Gordon A. Forster, Hand Hills (U. F. A.), cited various cases of hardship resulting from the mis-handling of funds of poor or comparatively poor clients by unscrupulous lawyers. The Legislature provided for the bonding of produce merchants, sheriffs,

school district and municipal secretaries, and there was no reason why legal practitioners should not be similarly bonded. Members of the profession should not, in matters of this kind, be left entirely to the discipline of the benchers of the law society.

The resolution was seconded by Mr. McKeen, and supported by Stanley Tobin and others, while Robert Pearson, Calgary (Independent), C. R. Mitchell, J. E. Brownlee, were among the opponents of the resolution.

It was impossible, said Captain Pearson, to bond everybody doing business. The cost would be very high for legal firms handling large trust accounts, and this cost would be added to the fees.

While approving of the motive of the mover, Mr. Mitchell believed that members of the legal profession were in general of high standing, and the law society was doing its best to keep the ranks clean. He suggested that the Attorney General and the law society get together, to see what improvements could be made in the regulations. He did not agree with the proposal.

L. A. Giroux, Grouard (Liberal), opposed the resolution, remarking that so far as criminal responsibility was concerned, lawyers were as fully liable as any other class.

### MANY CASES OF MISAPPROPRIATION, DECLARES WHITE

There had been far too many cases of misappropriation of trust funds, declared F. J. White, Calgary (Labor). Legislation had given lawyers power to handle such funds, and should insist on bonds being provided.

W. M. Davidson, Calgary (Independent), thought the resolution vexatious and paternal. It was impossible to make every transaction fool proof. Some form of insurance might be devised to guard against losses.

Expressing full agreement with Mr. Davidson, in regard to the vexatious and paternal character of the proposed legislation, Mr. Brownlee said such legislation would not accomplish its intended aims. The best discipline was the voluntary effort of the members of the profession. When a lawyer defaulted, his case received greater publicity than that of any other defaulter. The profession stood as high as that of real estate or collectors, who were not bonded. No other profession was surrounded by so many safeguards as the legal profession, and every default hurt the good name of all its members. Action was taken in 1921 to clean up conditions, and a determination to punish offenders had been shown. Mr. Brownlee believed that the law society would ask legislation to give them power to discipline members. Members of other occupations were handling trust funds, and were not bonded. "I suggest," said the Attorney General, "that this matter be left over for a year, to give the law society a chance to tighten its regulations further."

D. H. Galbraith, Nanton (U. F. A.), remarked that municipal secretaries and school district secretaries were bonded, though they were usually among the finest men in their communities. He was willing that the matter should be left over for a year.

The main value of the proposed legislation would lie in the protection it would give to small people, declared Mrs. McClung, Edmonton (Liberal). The big people could look after themselves. The share of the extra cost of bonding to be

borne by the small people on their small accounts would not be very great.

### BELIEVES CLIENT SHOULD BE ABSOLUTELY SAFEGUARDED

Mr. Forster said that the many cases in which losses had been sustained through the faults of some lawyers showed the necessity for more definite protection than the disciplinary measures of the law society. The client should be absolutely safeguarded against loss. "I think we should take into consideration the fact that the U. F. A. Annual Convention unanimously, or almost unanimously, adopted a resolution calling for such legislation as we are proposing," concluded Mr. Forster.

"Disciplining lawyers does not get back the funds of the client," was Mr. McKeen's comment.

J. C. Bowen, Edmonton, (Liberal), spoke in opposition to the resolution.

Upon the Assembly dividing on a standing vote, the following was recorded:

For the motion—Messieurs Love, Claypool, Forster, Sparks, Carson, McKeen, St. Arnaud, Andrews, Buckley, Farquharson, Peterson, W. C. Smith, G. N. Johnston, Enzenauer, Fedun, Chornohus, Tobin, Mrs. McClung, White, Christophers, W. G. Johnston.—21.

Against the motion—Messieurs Greenfield, Brownlee, Baker, Matheson, Galbraith, Shield, Joly, Cook, G. W. Smith, Sanders, Proudfoot, Mitchell, Marshall, Bowen, Mills, Dechene, McLennan, Giroux, Henry, Dr. Stewart, Miles, Pearson, Davidson.—23.

A bill to amend the acts and ordinances relating to the City of Red Deer was read a second time, on motion of G. W. Smith.

### MOVES RESOLUTION ON NORTHERN RAILWAYS

Moving the resolution on the subject of the northern railways, Premier Greenfield said that all were agreed as to the necessity for prompt action to hold the settlers already in the Peace River country, and to insure development. He described in detail the steps which had been taken by the Government to bring the heads of the railway systems together in conference. As a result of the conference held in the East, the Government expected to have a report in the hands of the Minister of Railways within a few days. An outline of the plans of the railways had been received by the Government in confidence. It was the duty of the Government to protect the investment which the Province had made in the railways.

L. A. Giroux, who seconded the motion, remarked that he had moved a resolution similar in form at the recent Liberal convention. At the suggestion of the Premier, who had, like himself, placed a motion on the order paper in regard to this matter, there had been an agreement upon the consolidated resolution.

Discussing the various routes by which the proposed outlet to the Pacific might pass through the mountains, Mr. Giroux said that the Wapiti pass would be useful to Grande Prairie, but would not give satisfactory service to the territory north of the Peace River, and that there was a similar objection to the Monkman pass. He quoted engineering authority to the effect that the Pine and Peace passes had the lowest grades, and either of them would serve both the northern and southern territories, and would allow of construction in continuation of the E. D.

& B. C. line. The Brule cut-off would be of no use to the people north of the Peace. It was undesirable that there should be two companies in the field, and the C. P. R. could not be expected to purchase the E. D. & B. C. if that road became useless by the building of a branch line of the C. N. R.

#### ALL WISH TO SEE PEACE RIVER DEVELOPED

Donald Cameron, Innisfail (U. F. A.), said that all members of the Assembly, from whatever part of the Province they came, wished to see the Peace River settlers fairly served with railway facilities, and would support the resolution. The Dominion Government was really responsible for bringing the settlers in, and it should have been the duty of that Government to see that facilities were provided.

No outlet from the Peace River which did not form part of the existing transportation systems should be considered by the Province, declared A. M. Matheson, Vegreville (U. F. A.). He had never been in favor, he said, of the Province undertaking railway development, and he saw no reason why the Province should suffer from the consequences of an "insane policy of bringing people into territory distant from transportation facilities before other territory was settled."

The resolution was endorsed by Mr. Mills, Athabasca (Liberal), and by C. R. Mitchell, who admitted that the primary responsibility rested with the Dominion Government. He thought that the Province was not getting the full advantage of the technical knowledge and skill of the Provincial Minister of Railways and his deputy.

"The technical skill and knowledge of the Department of Railways have been used from the beginning," replied the Premier.

#### BILL TO AMEND

#### LIQUOR CONTROL ACT

In moving the second reading of a bill to amend the Liquor Control Act, Mr. Brownlee said there had been some dissatisfaction with regard to the beer warehouses, and the suggestion had been made that the Government take over the distribution of beer. One objection to this was the difficulty of refrigeration, another that until the Government could control the price, it should not be responsible as an intermediary between the breweries and the consumer. Commissioner Dinning had conferred with the breweries with a view to consolidating warehouses and eliminating objectionable features.

It had been suggested that beer importation might help to control prices, but figures showed that the costs, with the tax added, would almost rule out the chance of outside breweries selling at a lower price than those in Alberta.

"I think I can speak for the Government when I say that we are unqualifiedly opposed to selling beer by the bottle from the breweries," said the Attorney General. "I think the present permit system one of our greatest safeguards, and if beer can be sold by the bottle without a permit, and be taken away, we might as well abolish the permit system, so far as beer is concerned."

Speaking of the question of importation, Mr. Brownlee reminded the Assembly that he had given warning of the possibility of litigation arising under the Canada Temperance Act. Application had

been made to the Dominion Government for an amendment of this act which would place the position of the Province beyond all doubt.

Mr. Brownlee did not think it necessary to impose a maximum on the amount of liquor which any purchaser under permit might buy. Experience showed that bootleggers did not buy in bulk, as the permit system made it easy to control illegal operations. Some very good people were large purchasers, and purchased solely for legitimate purposes.

A. M. Matheson adjourned the debate

The purpose of the amending bill is to guard against certain evils which have become known during the first year's administration of the act. Among other provisions is one enabling the Government to appoint an officer or employee of the board to take the place of an absent member. Mr. Brownlee pointed out that Alberta is the first Province to provide for one Commissioner only, that the experiment was proving successful, but that it was necessary to make provision for any emergency in which the Commissioner might temporarily be unable to act. Other amendments, which will be dealt with more fully in "The U. F. A." when the bill is under consideration in committee, provide for more efficient regulation of canteens; give the right to refuse permits to apparently undesirable persons; and make it illegal to be in possession of liquor which has not been purchased from a Government vendor or authorized druggist; and for various other changes in the act.

## Senate Is Not Now to Best Advantage of Dominion of Canada

Resolution Unanimously Adopted Asks Power to Amend Own Constitution Be Given Dominion—Senate Takes Orders From "Financial Powers"

#### WEDNESDAY'S SITTING

EDMONTON, March 11.—Expressing the opinion that "the Senate as at present organized is not of greatest advantage to Canada", and urging the Canadian Parliament to seek from the Parliament of Great Britain an amendment to the British North America Act which will give to the Dominion the power to amend its own constitution, a resolution moved by W. M. Davidson, Calgary (Independent), and seconded by Donald Cameron, Innisfail (U. F. A.), was unanimously adopted by the Legislative Assembly today. Mr. Cameron believed that the second chamber should be abolished, as it could serve no useful purpose in the political life of the country.

Mr. Reid's budget speech, delivered today, is given at length elsewhere.

#### TO MAINTAIN RIGHTS OF MINORITIES

The resolution set forth that the Governor-General, in the speech from the throne at the opening of the Federal Parliament, had announced that Parliament would be asked to sanction the calling of a conference between the Federal and Provincial Governments to consider the advisability of amending the British North America Act with respect to the powers of the Senate and other matters. Mr. Davidson's resolution specifically provided that no amendment to

the B. N. A. Act should be made without the consent of the Legislatures of the Provinces of Canada, and that the guaranteed rights of minorities should not be affected by any constitutional amendments which might be adopted.

Speaking to the motion, Mr. Davidson recalled the early history of Canadian constitutional development, of the struggle for elementary rights of self-government, and of the more recent evolution of the constitution. In view of the statement of the Governor-General in Parliament, the issue had ceased to be an academic one. Mr. Davidson believed it desirable that in any conference of Dominion and Provincial representatives that might be held, it was desirable to have virtual unanimity, that it would be necessary for all parties to get together and compromise their differences.

#### "SENATE HAS NOT WORKED OUT WELL"

After describing the circumstances under which the Fathers of Confederation agreed upon the setting up of the Senate, and upon its powers and place in the constitution. Mr. Davidson said the "Senate had not worked out well." It was intended to give an opportunity for the "sober second thought" of the people to prevail, yet it had not once served any such purpose, except on one or two occasions when it had been quite evidently actuated by strong partisanship. The Fathers had thought it would be composed of the ablest men. "I do not think our Senators are a race of supermen," said the member, pointing out that appointments were made entirely on party grounds, and not necessarily because any service had been rendered to the country. It had also been believed that the Senate would protect the interests of the Provinces yet it had never done so, and was in fact an entirely irresponsible body, which cost the country about half a million dollars a year to maintain. It had more power than the House of Lords, which the Government of the day in Great Britain could always control by virtue of its right to advise the King to create any number of new peers, while the Lords' power of veto was strictly limited. The Senate tended to "perpetuate a system of autocracy in a democratic country."

#### FOUR ALTERNATIVE PLANS OF ACTION

There were, Mr. Davidson said, four alternative plans for dealing with the Senate. First, the Senators might be appointed by the Dominion Government for a term of, say nine years, instead of for life. This plan would prove dangerous, for during the latter part of the period the Senate would tend to become merely a tool in the hands of the Government which had powers of re-appointment. The second proposal was appointment by the Provinces. The example of the United States, where the method of appointment by the State Legislatures had to be abandoned was against this. A third proposal was popular election. This was followed in the United States, but the republic had representative and not responsible government, and there the Senate was a body with very great powers indeed, and definite functions. To elect two sets of people to do the same kind of work, which popular election of the Senate

(Continued on page 10)

# News of the Organization

Activities of Locals and District Associations and Information From Central Office—Notes on Co-operation

## BUFFALO HILL HAS YEARLY PROGRAM

Buffalo Hill U. F. W. A. Local (Arrowwood) have prepared a very interesting and well balanced program for the year and have had copies stencilled and bound in pamphlet form for the convenience of the members. For one of the March meetings the program is as follows: Song, "The Maple Leaf", roll call, humorous squibs on chickens, paper on Co-operative Marketing of Eggs and Poultry, and a poultry judging demonstration.

The year's program includes papers and debates on Canada's Most Famous Women; Sanitation in the Farm Home; Immigration; Women and World Peace; History of Women's Struggle for the Franchise; Canada's Part in the League of Nations; History of the U. F. A. and U. F. W. A.; Resume of Provincial and Federal Parliaments; Canadian Authors; Temperance; Education; the Community Spirit; Banking System of Canada; A Short History of the League of Nations; Should Children Have an Allowance?; What the U. F. W. A. Meant to Me in 1925. Several of the reports and addresses given to the U. F. W. A. Annual Convention will be read and discussed. Demonstrations will be given by members on various branches of domestic science, and invitations are being extended to neighboring Locals for several of the meetings.

## TURKEY DINNER AT WILLOW HOLLOW

Willow Hollow U. F. W. A. Local recently served a turkey dinner to the members of the Local and their husbands, in the home of Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Williams. Following the dinner toasts were drunk to the King and the U. F. A., and after the tables were cleared away dancing was enjoyed.

## ARDENODE JUNIORS

L. H. Donkin recently organized the Ardenode Junior Local, which will meet in the Serviceberry schoolhouse. The officers elected are Harold Horrocks and Dorothy James, with W. N. Watson as supervisor.

## NEW LOCAL IN PONOKA DISTRICT

The Arbor Park Flashlights Junior Local was organized in the Ponoka district by Donald Cameron, Jr. Cleo Kennedy is the president and Irwin Bond the secretary, while the supervisors are Mesdames Stoddart, C. Buck, S. McPherson and C. Park.

## MEADOW BROOK JUNIORS

Nineteen members signed the roll of Meadow Brook Junior Local, organized by Donald Cameron, Jr., near Gleichen. Ethel A. Ewing and Addison Wilson were elected as president and secretary, and Miss Lemmon, Mrs. Blackburn, Mr. Buckley are supervisors.

## OPPOSED TO EXPORT DUTY

Oyen Local at a recent meeting unanimously passed the following resolution:

"Resolved, that we do register our objection to an export duty on wheat, as suggested in the Turgeon report, relating particularly to wheat in bond entering the United States to be made into

### REMINDERS FOR MARCH

Has your Program Committee planned an interesting, worth while program for your Local meetings?

\* \* \*

A Price List of supplies kept on hand at Central Office for the use of Locals is being mailed to each Local secretary. A reduction will be noted in some of the prices.

\* \* \*

Have you appointed your Canvassing Committee for the combined Drive for Poultry, Dairy and Livestock Pools?

\* \* \*

The members of the Egg and Poultry Pool Board are doing their best to help you make the Poultry Pool a success. Are you doing your best to get the contracts signed? Plan a drive. Get your local storekeeper interested. Most of these want to see the Pool succeed, as they do not care to handle the egg trade.

flour, as we feel that any export duty would tend to lower the price to the producer."

## ANNUAL BANQUET AT WARNER

On February 17th Warner U. F. A. Local gathered in the Athletic Hall for their annual banquet. Plates were provided by the ladies of the community who supplied the food, for 185. After the dinner, there was an interesting program, and toasts were given to the King, Canada, the U. S. A., the U. F. A., the U. F. W. A., the Women's Institute, the churches, the village of Warner, Our Community, and the Ladies.

## JOINT MEETING IN BERRYWATER

Reports of delegates to the Annual Convention were the chief feature of the joint meeting of the Berrywater U. F. A.

and U. F. W. A. Locals, held in the home of Mrs. Wilson Oldfield. Arrangements for a whist drive and dance completed the business program, after which music and lunch were enjoyed.

The program of the U. F. W. A. Local for the next two meetings includes a paper on immigration, to be followed by discussion, an address on patent medicines, roll call to be answered by views of the members on the subject, instrumental music and community singing. The rule has been adopted of fining members who do not respond to the roll call.

## NASHVILLE HOLDS WHIST DRIVE

Besides the regular monthly business meetings, Nashville Local hold whist drives every Wednesday evening, in the homes of the members. A small charge is made to men, the women bringing refreshments, and in this way funds are secured toward Local expenses. A special meeting was held recently when John Slattery, of Camrose, and E. R. Rasmussen, of Wetaskiwin, spoke on behalf of the Livestock and Dairy Pools. A committee was appointed to canvass the country, and are meeting with great success, according to a letter received from J. A. Holtner, secretary of the Local.

## CONSORT IN NEW QUARTERS

Consort Local had a good attendance for the first meeting in their new hall, and are planning to make good use of their new quarters by giving a number of social evenings and dances.

A copy of the Constitution as revised at the last Convention is being sent free to each Local. Additional copies may be had from Central for 5c each, 50c per dozen. Every member should be in possession of our Constitution and be familiar with it.

## Concentrated Drive for New Pools Meets Success

Canvassing Committees Set Up—Business Men Join Farmers in Work for Pools at Various Points—Send in Your Contracts

"The concentrated drive for the three Pools which took the form of holding a series of meetings at points along certain lines of railroad on the same day, and which program commenced two weeks ago on the Calgary and Edmonton line, has met with very good success to date," state the committee in charge.

"At all meetings except one attended on March 7th, a canvassing committee was set up. The attendance of the meetings was excellent considering the condition of the roads and the weather. The enthusiasm displayed at practically all of the meetings is such that there will be no doubt but what the Pools will go over with a decided margin above the required quota.

### GOOD MEETINGS AT BOWDEN AND DIDSBURY

"We would direct attention to two of the meetings in particular, namely the one held at the village of Bowden, where the hall was full of interested people, and where a canvassing committee of four were elected to canvass each of the school districts in that vicinity; also the meeting held at Didsbury where the business people are keenly interested and where on Saturday afternoon they closed their stores for two hours to hear the question of Pools discussed. A good sized hall was crowded and a committee of fifteen were appointed to canvass the district. This committee was composed of five business men and ten farmers.

"Besides holding meetings along the different lines of railroad on Saturday, as well we have organized meetings at other points, and at present have on our program a series of about 40 meetings.

"Requests have been coming in for a second talk over the radio on co-operative marketing. We are arranging, at present with the Edmonton Journal for this talk.

"The committee in charge of the Dairy Pool have issued a request to all of the canvassers already appointed in the Province to send forward the contracts signed as soon as possible. This is done for the purpose of getting our campaign as far ahead as possible before the spring work commences and further that we may lay our plans to better advantage for the coming drive which will take place immediately following spring operations."

# News From the Wheat Pool Head Office

## NEW MEMBERSHIP LISTS

The Pool Head Office is preparing new membership lists, which will be sent out to members in May. As provided in the resolution passed at the last Annual Meeting of the Association, the Province is now divided into seventy sub-districts, from each of which a delegate will be elected. The new lists now being made up will contain only the names of the members in a sub-district. This means that there will be seventy different lists made up, one for each sub-district. The vote of a member will be confined to some member in his respective sub-district. The Head Office is anxious that the lists should be as accurate as it is possible to make them.

\* \* \*

## HAVE YOU CHANGED YOUR ADDRESS?

If any member has changed his post office address and has not notified the Head Office he should do so IMMEDIATELY so that the necessary change can be made in the lists. Every member is placed on the map according to the location of the land owned or operated by him. Therefore, if his land is not correctly given on his contract he may be placed in the wrong sub-district, perhaps in a district wherein he is not at all acquainted. This is sure to cause much dissatisfaction. Members are therefore urgently requested to notify Head Office of any change in their address or of the location of their land. Any inaccuracies in the membership list will give rise to confusion during the coming year.

Arrangements are being made to provide each member with a map of the Province, showing the district and sub-district boundary lines and it is likely that these will be sent out in May.

\* \* \*

## ELECTION METHOD UNCHANGED

There appears to be some confusion in the minds of members as to the method by which the delegates will be elected for the coming year. They will be elected by post card ballot, in the same manner as last year, except that the vote of any member will be confined to the members in his respective sub-district, as mentioned above. No doubt meetings will be held in various sub-districts for the purpose of concentrating on some suitable member as delegate, but such meetings will have no official status, nor will the names of any nominees selected by such meetings be placed on ballot forms. The ballots will go out in blank as they did last year. The member receiving the highest number of votes in any sub-district will be declared elected as a delegate for such sub-district.

\* \* \*

## BREACH OF CONTRACT

Six cases of alleged breach of contract are now in the hands of the Pool's legal counsel and it is the intention to carefully check the deliveries of members and to take prompt action against any member who is found to have wilfully violated the contract he has made with his fellow farmers in the Pool.

\* \* \*

## NEW WHEAT POOL LOCALS

The following Wheat Pool Locals have recently been organized: Maleb, T. A. Reynar, secretary; Raymond, J. W. Evans, secretary; Magrath, George Card,

The questions and answers set forth below are extracts of correspondence which passed over the secretary's desk during the last few weeks.

secretary; Sunnynook, H. E. Smithenry, secretary; Opal, D. Macdonald, secretary.

As soon as any Local is organized a report should be sent in promptly to Head Office so that the name of the Local can be entered on our lists and the usual literature sent out. Such report should be signed by at least five of the members present at the organization meeting.

\* \* \*

## PERMITS FOR SALE OF SEED AND FEED

To date over 650 permits for the sale of wheat for seed and feed have been granted to members. Under clause 8 a member must hold a written permit from Head Office before disposing of wheat in any way other than through the Pool. This permit, when granted, does not expire until June 1st, 1925, and gives the member the privilege of selling wheat at any price he can get to anyone he chooses so long as his sales are confined to Pool members. Clause 9 of the contract restricts his sales to Pool members only.

—o—

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

### RENTER AND POOL

1. If a renter signs the Wheat Pool contract and has rented the land on shares, can he sell the land owner's share out of the Pool, the land owner not being a Pool member?

Where a Pool member rents or leases land on a crop share basis, the wheat grown on this land accrues to him by virtue of his lease, and is bound by the terms of his contract and must be marketed through the Pool, with the exception of registered seed wheat and wheat which may be sold direct to another Pool member under permit from the association. If the land owner is not a Pool member the portion of crop accruing to him is not bound by the Pool contract and the wheat may be sold in any way in which he (the landlord) sees fit.

\* \* \*

### LANDOWNER WHO RENTS LAND

2. If a land owner signs the contract on his own land and rents a quarter section that is not in the Pool, can he sell his share of the wheat out of the Pool?

Where a land owner signs a contract the contract binds him to deliver to the Pool all wheat produced on his own land and the wheat which accrues to him by virtue of any lease which he may hold on other land not stipulated in the contract. Clause 4 of the agreement provides in effect that the member must market through the Pool all wheat produced or acquired by or for him in the Province, except registered seed wheat during the life of his agreement. This makes the contract a personal covenant binding upon the grower as an individual irrespective of any land which may or may not be set forth in the contract.

\* \* \*

### SELLING IN WIFE'S NAME

3. If a Pool member sells his wheat

in his wife's name out of the Pool can the Pool come on him for it?

If the selling right of the wheat in question lies with the Pool member, and he sells it in his wife's name outside of the Pool, he has committed a breach of contract and is liable to the penalty clause, providing for 25c per bushel liquidated damages. The Head Office will be pleased to receive information respecting any such cases, as it is the intention to see that the provisions of the contract are adhered to.

\* \* \*

## AFTER WHEAT IS IN ELEVATOR

4. Can a farmer sell his wheat to the Pool after his wheat is in the elevator and he has the storage ticket for same?

Yes. He may do so by signing a contract with the Pool and advising the elevator company that he is a Pool member and that his wheat is Pool wheat.

\* \* \*

## CAN JOIN AFTER SOME OF WHEAT SOLD

5. Can he join the Pool after some of his wheat is already sold?

Yes. He may join at any time. The contract does not cover wheat which is sold prior to signing a contract, so long as the sale of this wheat is accompanied by actual delivery thereof, and obligates the farmer only to deliver to the Pool all wheat produced or acquired by him in the Province, except registered seed wheat, during the life of his agreement. He is, of course, privileged under clause 8 of the members' agreement to sell wheat for seed or feed to another Pool member upon first receiving a permit in writing from this office.

—o—

## LIQUOR CONTROL ACT

Under the Liquor Control Act of Alberta, which came into force on May 10th, 1924, the first liquor stores being opened in Calgary and Edmonton on May 12th, net profits of \$1,020,824.94 accrued to the Provincial Treasurer by the end of the calendar year, according to a report of the results of the first season's operations prepared by Commissioner Dinning and presented in the Alberta Legislature.

A short summary of the results of operations during the period under review is as follows:

Gross Sales, Less Breakages,

Outward freight and cartage \$2,610,940.63  
Less Cost of Sales ..... 1,540,709.20

Gross Profit ..... \$1,070,231.43  
Less Operating Expenses ..... 314,921.36

Add License Revenue, Beer taxes  
and miscellaneous revenue.. 374,647.01

Operating Profit ..... \$1,129,957.08  
Less Interest Charges ..... 30,290.96

Less Enforcement Branch and  
Permit expenses ..... 56,454.32

Net Profit ..... \$1,043,211.80  
Less Reserves, Burglary and  
General ..... 22,386.86

Net Profit to the Provincial  
Treasurer ..... \$1,020,824.94

Liquor stores were established at 25 centres. Permits brought in a revenue of \$83,254.75. During the period 85 interdiction orders were issued, the interdicted persons in 54 cases not being permit holders.

**SENATE IS NOT NOW TO BEST  
ADVANTAGE OF DOMINION  
OF CANADA**

(Continued from page 7)

would mean in Canada, would be unsatisfactory and wasteful. If the Senate so elected agreed with the Commons it would be superfluous; if it disagreed, the resulting situation would be still more unsatisfactory.

The fourth proposal was that there should be no Senate. In Alberta there would be strong support for such a proposal, but as it was to be feared that some of the other Provinces would not agree, this plan was not practicable. "I am opposed to any second chamber unless its powers are strictly limited, however," Mr. Davidson declared.

**"TAKES ITS ORDERS FROM  
FINANCIAL POWERS"**

"So long as the Senate took its orders from the party leaders, there was some way of dealing with it, and limiting its power for evil," the Calgary member continued. "It has now become a very serious danger indeed, for I think the Senate is now taking its orders, not from the party leaders, but from the financial leaders, from the financial powers."

It was true that the bench was selected in the same way as the Senate, but judges occupied responsible positions. If the Senate were made a purely advisory and consultative body, with no powers to block legislation in more than the most temporary way, perhaps this would provide the best practicable solution of the problem. If the Senate's powers were limited, that body, Mr. Davidson believed, would tend to become purely consultative.

Mr. Davidson thought that no one would seriously object today to Canada's obtaining power to amend her own constitution—a right which Australia and some other Dominions already possessed. When amendments were adopted by Parliament, they should be submitted to plebiscite.

**DONALD CAMERON  
PREFERS ABOLITION**

"Drastic reform or abolition of the Senate is imperative," declared Mr. Cameron, "and I prefer abolition. The members of this body are responsible to none but themselves, and have become in fact a haven of refuge for broken-

down politicians." The B. N. A. Act, passed 58 years ago, had fulfilled its purposes, but we had travelled far since 1867. "I am persuaded," said Mr. Cameron, "that the British Parliament has no desire to interfere with our domestic affairs."

**BROWNLEE WOULD  
DEPRIVE OF VETO POWERS**

Complimenting Mr. Davidson on his "fine, interesting and instructive address," Mr. Brownlee said he was not quite sure whether he could favor total abolition of the Senate, which had not proved entirely an unmixed evil. He was not sure that in protecting Canada from some extravagant demands for railway extension by the Canadian National Railways, it had not done good service. If party differences could be sunk, and all public men thought only of the good of their country, then there would be no need for a second chamber. He did agree, however, that the Senate should not be able to withstand permanently the will of the Commons. If the second chamber had power to veto legislation once, and to veto it a second time, then on the third occasion of its passage by the Commons, it should automatically be brought into effect, upon presentation to the Governor-General.

Mr. Brownlee believed that the Alberta Government would be glad to participate in the proposed conference to consider amendments to the constitution. The difference between the Senate and the judiciary could be explained by the fact that the judiciary, though politically appointed, was not political in its outlook, and had the wonderful tradition of British justice behind it. The Senate was entirely political in outlook.

Mr. Brownlee agreed that the B. N. A. Act did not meet present day conditions. It was no longer necessary for one who held this view to explain that it was not his desire to cut the ties of the empire. Whatever amendments were adopted, the rights of minorities should be respected.

Mrs. McClung did not wish to abolish the Senate, but suggested that appointments should be made on the recommendation of various great national organizations. She would include the U. F. A. among these, for she viewed this organization with great sympathy and respect. If this plan were followed, no person who had not served his or her generation well would be appointed. The Senate had been very narrow in its attitude towards women.

J. C. Bowen, Edmonton (Liberal), while not convinced of the desirability of abolishing the Senate, believed that there must be certain restrictions imposed upon its powers.

A bill to amend the Mines Act was given a second reading. The amendments provide means of ensuring payment to miners by the keeping of a record showing the sums paid to workmen, and of a monthly statement to the chief inspector, indicating whether wages have been paid or not. In the event of wages remaining unpaid, a receiver may be appointed to receive the profits of the mine, and sums unfairly received by the owner to the detriment of the workmen may then be paid by the receiver to the workmen.

Second reading was also given to a bill to amend the Jury Act. The bill will give power to a trial judge to remove from a jury panel the names of such persons as in his discretion would suffer hardship or unnecessary inconven-

**ESTIMATED TELEPHONE DEFICIT,  
\$140,176**

Estimates tabled in the Legislature last week show an estimated revenue on Income account in the Telephones branch for 1925 of \$2,523,000, and an estimated expenditure of \$2,663,176, leaving a deficit of \$140,176. The estimated expenditure on capital account is \$500,000, all for construction.

ience from being called upon to serve on a jury. Any person who has been summoned as a juror but not sworn, may be excused from attendance for good cause by a judge. While in all criminal proceedings the verdict of a jury, which shall consist of six members, shall be unanimous, in all civil proceedings, any five of the jury may return a verdict or answer questions submitted to the jury by the judge, and the verdict of the five shall have the same effect as a verdict of the six.

**NEW BILL COVERING  
DOMESTIC RELATIONS**

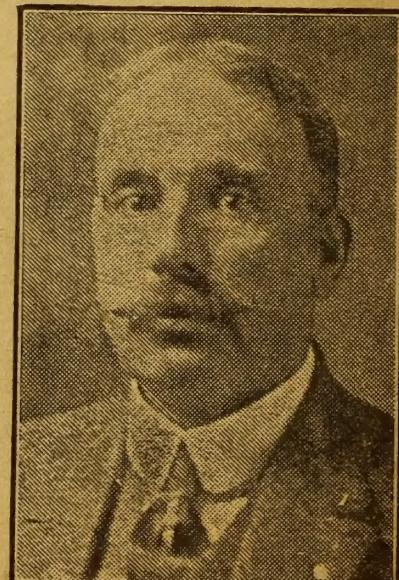
A bill relating to Domestic Relations, which was read a second time, is largely a codification of the existing law on this subject, which is in force in Alberta by virtue of having been English law prior to 1870, or which is in force by virtue of Provincial enactment. A special definition of the word "cruelty" is given which extends the older judicial meaning of the word, as used in regard to judicial separations. "Cruelty" as defined in the bill, includes not only conduct creating danger to life, limb or health, but also any course of conduct which in the opinion of the court is grossly insulting and intolerable, or of such character that the person seeking the separation could not reasonably be expected to be willing to live with the other after he or she has been guilty of such conduct.

It is provided that even the whole of a husband's money may be given by way of alimony, in an action for dissolution of marriage, declaration of nullity, judicial separation or restitution of conjugal rights. Where a judgment of divorce or nullity has been obtained, the court may give an order for payment in favor of a guilty wife.

When parents of a child born out of wedlock have intermarried after the birth of the child, the child shall be



W. M. DAVIDSON,  
who moved resolution on amendment of the  
Constitution.



DONALD CAMERON  
who advocates abolition of the Senate.

deemed to have been legitimate from the time of birth. This provision is retroactive.

## Mitchell Critical of the New Auditing System of Province

Declares Estimated Deficit for 1925 Is Nearly Million Dollars—Asks Speaker to Take Action Regarding Articles in "The U. F. A."

### THURSDAY'S SITTING

EDMONTON, March 12.—Devoting about one half of his speech to an attack on the new accounting system adopted by the Government, C. R. Mitchell, Liberal leader, occupied the floor of the Assembly during the greater part of the budget debate today. By adding to the deficit on income account of \$368,632, the sum of \$195,395.18 received from motor licenses which he said should have been spent solely on roads, but was not so spent; by adding the deficit of \$140,176 on the Telephone System, which as a public utility is dealt with in a separate account, and by removing from the income account for the year the sum of \$274,000 representing the subvention from the Dominion Government for work actually done by the Province in highways construction, Mr. Mitchell brought the total deficit for 1925 to \$978,000.

Mr. Mitchell attacked the U.F.A., declaring that its fundamental principles in political action called for the setting of "class against class," for the "survival of the fittest," and that it was also guided by the principle of "expediency" in carrying out its policies. He paid a high tribute to the writer of the articles on Provincial Finances which have been contributed to "The U.F.A." by "A Private Member of the Legislature," and applied to the Speaker of the Assembly to compel the writer of these "masterly" articles to discontinue writing them unless his name were given.

In answer to a question by Mr. Galbraith, who asked whether he favored an increase in the rural telephone rates Mr. Mitchell said that he favored "putting the telephone system on a paying basis." The question could be considered on its merits, "irrespective of whether money in the past had been spent carelessly or indifferently." The Government of which he had been a member, he declared, had raised rates in 1920, just prior to an election. The system should not be allowed to deteriorate through lack of proper means of raising revenue.

### MITCHELL VENTURES INTO PROPHECY

"This Government," the Liberal leader asserted, "are going to let the system deteriorate and drag along until after an election, and then, whatever Government is in power will have to answer the question whether the rates should be raised. If it is necessary to raise the rates in order to put the system on a paying basis, I'd have to raise the necessary revenue. All parties, rural and urban, should be treated alike in this matter."

Declaring that from the standpoint of a chartered accountant the public accounts under the new system were "very complete", and "exhibited all the

important matters that need come before the public," Mr. Mitchell said this was no reflection on the old system. So far as making matters clear to the lay mind was concerned, there was no improvement.

Mr. Mitchell then complained that under the new system, the preparation of the public accounts, instead of being a matter mainly for the Treasury, was now mainly a matter for the Auditor, the Audit Department thus being able to audit its own work, without any independent audit. Alberta had been fortunate, he said, in that so far all Governments had maintained a high standard, this being true of the present as well as of former Governments, but the new system opened the way to possible abuse, and was therefore a danger. "If the auditor is to be the controller," he said, "let us have an independent audit."

### SAYS AUDITOR REFLECTED ON OLD ADMINISTRATION

A passage in the auditor's report in which certain methods employed in the past had been criticized was described by Mr. Mitchell as a "reflection on the old administration," which was not a function that an auditor could properly exercise. He declared that the Government had adopted the recommendations in the report of the Special Audit of 1921 in only one respect, that the auditors, whose general efficiency and standing he did not question, "knew nothing about the science of Government or the difficulties of Government accounting."

"I am not an expert accountant," declared Mr. Mitchell, "but I do know the difference between private and Government auditing."

The Special Audit, said he, had advised that the deficit should be carried over from year to year, that bonds should be issued for each Government undertaking, for terms corresponding to the life of the work, and these recommendations, quite properly in his opinion, had not been followed. Reading from the report of the Special Auditors appointed in 1921, who reported to the present Government a passage in which the writers stated as a "great indictment" of the old plan that "the Province was rushing headlong into a highly unsatisfactory" condition. Mr. Mitchell complained that such a passage was unwarranted, and should never have been made.

Resuming his attack on the new system of auditing, the Liberal leader said that the auditor should be "as far removed" from the Provincial Treasurer as possible, and should not make statements likely to be controversial.

Discussing the accumulated deficit which the report recently presented showed as \$4,729,488, since 1905, Mr. Mitchell said that this was not, according to the present Government's statements, as bad as the showing in 1921, when the Special Auditors announced that it was over \$5,000,000. Yet since 1921 a further deficit of about \$3,102,000 had accumulated. If that were the case, then the accumulated deficit in 1921 was \$8,113,000. The logical conclusion was that \$3,300,000 of the accumulated deficit up to 1921 had been wiped off, leaving, according to the "newfangled system of accounting" only \$1,600,000.

The Government had used collections made on account of arrears of revenue, in current revenue, to keep down deficits. "I do not blame them for this,"

(Continued on page 18)

## Premier Describes Merits of the New Accounting System

Audit Staff as at Present Constituted Contains No Politicians—An Incident of 1920, Under the Old System

### FRIDAY'S SITTING

EDMONTON, March 13.—Describing in detail the new system of book-keeping introduced by the Government, and the economies and improvement in efficiency which, he said, it made possible, Premier Greenfield, in the budget debate today, replied to the criticisms of the Liberal leader. Mr. Mitchell sat in silence as the Premier, after setting forth that, contrary to the views expressed by the former Treasurer, the new system afforded real and more effective safeguards against manipulation than had been known in the past, called attention to the Public Accounts of 1920, which showed, said the Premier, that a member of the Audit staff drew salary and full expenses for that year, and in addition, \$163.10 expenses in connection with a polling subdivision where he had spent three weeks campaigning, financed by Government money. This, said Mr. Greenfield, might be an isolated instance, or an indication of a widespread system pursued by the late Government.

The Liberal leader, Premier Greenfield remarked in opening, had apparently experienced considerable difficulty in developing any really serious criticism of the Administration and he recalled Mr. Mitchell's contention that the new system did not take anything away from the old.

### WOULD NOT BE A GREAT DEAL LEFT

"It did not," said the Premier. "If it did there would not have been a great deal left. It adds to the old system and strengthens it."

"The burden of the honorable gentleman's complaint appears to be that the Government has not carried out all the recommendations of the Special Audit report. My friend must not be too impatient. Changes of this nature take time to put into effect and have to be made gradually, or serious disturbance will occur in departmental organization. A Government in considering any report of this nature reserves the right of decision as to what recommendations it follows."

"The honorable gentleman's memory gets obscured in his moments of enthusiasm. He apparently has forgotten the Wray Report on the Telephone System and has forgotten also that the Government of which he was a member, almost totally ignored its recommendations."

"And here let me say to those who criticise the cost of the Special Audit that the total cost of the Special Audit covering all departments of Government was much less than the cost of the Wray Report, which only examined one department. The purpose of the Special Audit was to ascertain for the Government just how the affairs of the Province of Alberta stood when the present Government assumed office, to examine into the methods of accounting, the organization of the various departments, and report to the Government. We wanted to know whether the old fashioned method of

accounting with which my honorable friend grew up, for which I take it he accepts some responsibility, and for which he apparently has an abiding affection, were the best methods that could be employed.

"A study of the report submitted did not engender the same confidence in the old fashioned methods which my friend had and apparently still enjoys.

"The leader of the opposition makes a studied effort to discredit the form of the Public Accounts, and the machinery by which the Public Accounts were produced. While he is constrained to admit that something has been achieved, he claims that this achievement is of interest to the expert accountant, to the Audit Office, Treasury Department and financial houses only. He follows this with the extraordinary statement that the layman in search of information on vital points would gain such information just as readily under the old form of Public Accounts as under the new.

#### UTTER ABSENCE OF TECHNICAL PHRASING

"The fact is, that the Public Accounts in their new form, are, first of all, strikingly complete, and, secondly, are strikingly simple. There is an utter absence of technical phrasing. The various statements follow each other in logical sequence. Indexes and cross references are remarkably complete. While there is a wealth of detailed information, the arrangement is such that the maximum of information can be gleaned with the minimum of labor.

#### CHIEF CHANGE IN FORM OF ACCOUNTS

"As compared with the form of accounts previously in use the chief changes have been:

"First, that a balance sheet of the Province, with a complete set of supporting schedules, has been included. This must surely be regarded as containing vital information, yet the same information was contained nowhere in the Public Accounts of previous years.

"Second, that for all commercial activities carried on by the Government there now appear complete statements showing results of operation. Some of these activities are on a huge scale, and must constitute a vital part of the business of the Province, yet this information would be looked for in vain in previous years.

"Third, the complete expenditures for each department are shown for the first time in one place in the Public Accounts. In previous years the expenditure of a Department would be located partly under Civil Government, partly under General Expenditure, partly under General Administration Purposes, and partly under statutory payments of miscellaneous, and there was no sufficient index to lead the inquirer to the information he might seek. In fact, there almost appeared to be a design to weary the inquirer rather than inform him.

"The changes in every case have been conceived in the interests of the Legislature and of the public that more extended and accurate information may be given in a form easily understood.

#### INFORMATION WHICH LIBERAL LEADER MISSED

"The honorable member was greatly mystified as to an item of \$4,279.000 shown on the balance sheet as 'deficit

on Income Account.' He thought that it should have been \$8,000,000. If he had followed the reference shown and turned over to statement No. 3, he would have been fully informed as to the manner in which this item was arrived at. He would have found his stray eight millions and all the deductions and allowances therefrom, all written out so large and plain, that a 'man who runs may read.'

"The leader of the opposition endeavored to create the impression that changes in organization had undermined somewhat the independence of the Audit Office in its relation to the Treasury. It is true that certain powers heretofore exercised by the Treasury Department have been transferred to the Audit and Control Branch by amendments passed last year, although, in fact, under a simplified system there is less bookkeeping in the Audit Office than there was before. This transfer followed a clearly understood principle, that the keeping of books and the handling of cash should be clearly separated. The auditor deals with authorizations and authorities for payment only. He cannot originate a voucher for payment, save as to payment of salaries of his own staff or expenses of his own office; neither can he complete payment of a voucher by delivery of a cheque. The Auditor authorizes; the Treasurer makes the funds available and pays. These separate functions are more clearly kept in view under the new system than they were under the old. The Audit Office deals at arm's length with the Treasury, in the same way that it deals at arm's length with any other department of the Government.

"The honorable leader makes the remark that the Auditor under this system audits his own accounts. This is based on an entire misconception. The books previously kept in the Treasury and now kept in a greatly improved form in the Audit and Control Branch, are the medium through which is compiled and compared and reconciled the information originating in books kept by every department of the Government. The department records, which are the foundation of the accounts, are dealt with by the Provincial Auditor in his capacity as Auditor only.

"The suggestion that the Provincial Auditor could under any circumstances compile and table in this Legislature accounts at variance with the departmental records can only be described as absurd.

#### WHERE DISHONESTY AND DEFAULTS MAY CREEP IN

"The honorable member contends that there is an element of risk in the present organization and that opportunity exists for dishonesty. He appears to lose sight of the elementary fact that dishonesty and defaults creep in usually where the same party who handles cash is in charge of the books of accounts. The organization of an ordinary banking office is such that the ledgers are invariably kept by one employee and the cash received and paid out by another.

"The Treasury receives all the revenues of the Province, deposits same, and makes all payments. The Audit and Control Branch neither receives nor pays out money. Yet the member suggests that there is opportunity for dishonesty if the books are kept in the branch where no money is handled, and that for safety they should be put back in the same custody as the cash.

#### STRANGE COMMENTARY ON FORMER TREASURER'S REMARKS

"The honorable member voices a fear that the Audit and Control Branch may be turned somewhat to political uses. It is a strange commentary on his remarks to pick up the Public Accounts of 1920, to find on page 61 where a certain member of the Audit staff drew salary and expenses in full for that year, and then to turn to page 351, and find that this same employee drew \$163.10 expenses in connection with a polling subdivision in the by-election in the Athabasca constituency where he had spent three weeks in political campaigning, financed by Government money. This may be an isolated instance or an indication of a widespread system pursued by the late Government of which the present leader of the opposition was Provincial Treasurer. This could not have taken place without the knowledge of the honorable leader of the opposition. The honorable gentleman's knowledge of what had taken place under his own administration no doubt formed the basis for his present apprehension, but I would like to assure the honorable gentleman and the public that the Audit staff as at present constituted contains no politicians. Their whole and sole duty is that of auditors protecting the interests of the people of the Province of Alberta and responsible only to this Legislature."

#### MR. MITCHELL HAS NOTHING TO SAY

Mr. Mitchell, who was in his place in the Assembly, did not challenge these statements.

R. C. Marshall, the Liberal member for Calgary, however, asked whether the discovery of this use of public funds for political purposes had been discovered by the new Provincial Auditor.

"It has been a matter of common knowledge for several years," was the reply.

Mr. Greenfield went on to deal with the Special Audit instituted by the present Government in 1921.

"Some of the direct results of the Audit were," he said:

"1. Co-ordination of the work of the Treasury Department and Audit Office, with reduction in staff, increased efficiency and reduced cost.

In 1921—the cost of the Treasury General Office and Audit Office was \$115,000

In 1924—under the new system inaugurated, the cost was \$95,000. A saving of \$20,000 a year in that office alone. And similar reorganization is being carried out in other departments.

"Taking the Department of Municipal Affairs, the cost of the administration of the department was:

In 1921 \$214,872.98

In 1924 \$166,390.00

Decrease \$48,482.98

"The Special Audit revealed the fact that collecting departments lacked initiative in stimulating the flow of revenue to the Treasury, that while the machinery for handling actual collections was fairly adequate, consistent effort to reduce amounts outstanding was lacking.

"This condition was reflected in the records covering deferred revenue, which in some departments and branches were so incomplete and inadequate that the amount of revenue owing to the Government was at no time exactly ascertainable. Those branches which transact

business on a spot cash basis were naturally not affected, but the defect was most apparent in the Department of Municipal Affairs, which collects land taxes chiefly.

"Large amounts of collected taxes remained in the hands of the local municipal treasurers. Some tax notices were issued so late in the year that penalties accrued very shortly after the taxpayer received his notice. Assessments and tax rolls were kept in a manner which would have been considered discreditable to any municipal office in the Province.

"The Department could not state authoritatively at the end of the year what the total levies of the year had been nor furnish accurately any other particulars save as to the actual cash received. In carrying forward arrears from one year to another, no precaution was taken to prevent omissions or errors, and there was no proof that all arrears were actually included in the rolls.

#### EMPLOYEE COULD CANCEL BY STROKE OF PEN

"Cancellation of taxes could be effected by any employee, responsible or irresponsible, who had access to the rolls, by the mere stroke of the pen. In this off-hand manner care was taken of the most valuable single revenue asset of the Province.

"Time is required to accommodate a large staff to changes of any sort, but it can now be said that all the conditions I have described have been rectified. Particulars of the tax levies are now compiled during the year, and a statement of same is available at the close of the year. Arrears carried forward to new rolls must be in agreement with balances remaining in the old rolls. Cancellations can only be made upon proper authority, evidenced by the signature of a responsible official.

#### ONE REASON FOR HIGHER TAX COLLECTIONS

"Issuance of tax notices takes place at the proper time and the tangible result follows that, with little changes in the levies since 1921, the annual tax collections have increased from 1921 to 1924 by \$431,000.

"This is only one Department. The same story is true in varying degree in all collecting Departments, with the exception of those doing spot cash business.

"Systems in force in 1921 were found to be totally inadequate to the requirements of a number of trading activities carried on by the Government.

"Take the liquor business, carried on in those days by vendors' stores in Calgary and Edmonton. The only information furnished to the House through the public accounts showed that certain amounts had been received in cash and certain other amounts paid out in cash during the year. Such important points as cost of goods, cost of selling, increase or decrease in stock, cost of administration, relation of cost to volume of business done, were not kept in view in the preparation of statements for the public accounts.

#### AUDIT COST REDUCED BY NINETY PER CENT

"The annual cost of audit of Liquor Branch was some \$4,000. Under the present system the audit of the new Liquor Control Board, with two and a half times the volume of business, cost in 1924, a total of \$400, and resultant statements furnished in the commissioners' report and in the public accounts are such as would meet the most rigid requirements of any business concern doing similar business on a similar scale.

"This has been brought about by the installation of a system of accounting which provides a perfect internal check, and by complete agreement between the accounting staff of the Liquor Commission and the staff of the Provincial Audit, as to methods and aims.

#### TELEPHONE AUDIT ALMOST CUT IN HALF

"In the Telephone Department certain recommendations with reference to audit were made by the Special Audit instituted by this Government. These recommendations were previously made by J. G. Wray in his report on the Telephone System instituted by our predecessors some years ago but not acted upon by the previous Government. The Telephone Audit formerly cost around \$11,000. It now costs \$6,600. Audits of outside institutions are now completely covered each year.

"In 1921 the last recorded audit of the Provincial Mental Hospital was 1918; of the Fort Saskatchewan gaol, 1917; the Lethbridge gaol, 1919.

#### NO PREVIOUS AUDIT FOR THESE INSTITUTIONS

"Excepting in the Special Audit, which we provided for, the normal schools at Camrose and Calgary; the Provincial institution at Red Deer; the school of technology and art at Calgary, had, at the time we took over, never received any attention from the Provincial Audit office. In 1924, with a reduced Audit staff, every Government office in the

Province received attention, and in 1925 the audit of the operating and construction accounts of the Railway Department will be added to the work of the Audit staff.

"The many branches and widespread activities of the Department of Agriculture have raised accounting problems not encountered elsewhere. In 1921 and previously revenue was greatly delayed in its progress to the Treasury. Voluminous details were required to accompany deposits, and power to contract on behalf of the Government extended to far too many officials.

#### HOPELESS CONFUSION IN SEED GRAIN ADVANCES

"In the matter of Seed Grain advances hopeless confusion existed in the accounting with individual debtors. The operation of nine farms under the jurisdiction of the Department presented an accounting problem never satisfactorily solved until we solved it. Today a complete double entry system is established for General Revenue, with revenue classified and deposited in the Treasury weekly.

#### COMPELLED TO ACCEPT THE BANK'S FIGURES

"Seed Grain and Relief advances were reviewed and consolidated since 1908, with complete double entry and control accounts. A double entry system was installed for each of the nine farms, which meets their peculiar accounting needs. A striking commentary on the prevailing conditions was the fact that when seed grain and relief notes were taken over by the Government shortly after taking office in 1921, no department of the Government had an adequate record of amounts guaranteed, and in taking over the notes from the banks, we were compelled to a considerable extent to make settlement on figures furnished by the banks themselves.

#### FAILED TO APPLY COMMON BUSINESS PRINCIPLES

"I could go on indefinitely, but I feel I have drawn attention sufficiently to convince the Assembly that 'the business men's administration' which this Province had prior to 1921, which my honorable friend, Mr. Henry, is so anxious to see re-established, failed to apply common business principles to Government administration and accounting. And I think I have said enough to establish the fact that the Special Audit instituted by the present Government was amply justified, and was an exceedingly profitable investment of the public funds."

(Continued on page 18)

## Farming Conditions and Provincial Finances Reviewed by Reid in Budget Speech

Dairy Production Shows Rapid Increase—Total Value of All Alberta Production \$217,477,803—Long Term Credits Vital Necessity — "Growth of Co-operative Spirit" Outstanding

#### Feature of Present Period

account of the means employed by the Government to promote economy and increase efficiency in the various Departments is given.

In opening Mr. Reid remarked that it had been customary to preface the budget speech by a general statement of economic conditions in the Province, as the annual increase in wealth was re-

flected in revenues and expenditures.

"From the viewpoint of net returns," he said, "the year 1924 will go down in the history of the Province as one of the good years. There are a few districts, of course, that will have to be excluded from such general statement. In a large crop area such as we have, this must apply, however, to almost any year. Dif-

An extensive survey of the financial position of the Province, and of prevailing agricultural conditions and prospects of the future, was made by R. G. Reid, Provincial Treasurer, in presenting the budget on Wednesday of last week. A summary of the financial statements was given in "The U. F. A." of March 11th. In this issue Mr. Reid's detailed

ferent localities will have their off years at varying periods. But considering the low cost of taking off the crop and the high prices of grain, the returns for the year 1924, taking the Province as a whole, will compare favorably with preceding years of high yields.

"The total value of all production, including grain, fodder crops, dairying, poultry and fur is \$217,477,808.23, as compared with \$209,194,100.00 for the year 1923. It will therefore be seen that there was a substantial increase in the returns to those engaged in our basic industry. Unfortunately, the returns from the 1924 crop were distributed over a smaller number of farmers, owing to the crop failures in a section of our Province. Those who were fortunate to have a crop will, however, have a much larger return for their labors than for the preceding year.

"With all the progress that has been made in agriculture in recent years, it is in the dairy industry that the Province has made the greatest advances."

#### PROGRESS IN THE DAIRY INDUSTRY

Calling attention to the rapid progress which had been made in the dairy industry, Mr. Reid said that the annual increase might fairly be measured by the butter and cheese output of the various factories, and stated that in the 54 creameries operating in 1922 there was an output of 15,417,070 pounds of butter in 1922; while in 1923, 75 creameries made 17,863,853 pounds, and in 1924, 89 creameries made approximately 21,500,000 pounds. He continued:

"The figures for cheese production are not so encouraging. It is expected that the 13 factories in operation will have an output somewhat less than that of the previous year, which was 1,865,608 pounds, the amount estimated being 1,675,000 pounds.

"A steady improvement is being noted in the general quality of the cream furnished to the creameries and a corresponding betterment in the grade of butter as well. Through the activities of the Provincial cream and butter grading services, the Government is in a position to follow this phase of the industry quite closely. It is very evident that the forty odd thousand farmers who are marketing their cream through the creameries of the Province fully appreciate the fact that the present system provides an opportunity for them to secure a return for their product exactly in proportion to the quality of cream they deliver. Farmers are also entitled to have their product graded on its merits by a disinterested person, and furthermore, the law respecting the matter is framed in such a manner that the purchaser of the cream must pay a uniform price for the cream in each grade. It simply means that every cream producer who is patronizing a creamery has at any time a choice of at least three prices for his cream as represented by the standard grading—'special', 'first' and 'second'. This has proved to be the most effective argument for quality production.

#### EXPORT, 1924, EQUALS TOTAL OUTPUT, 1923

"Although most of the butter produced by the creameries in Alberta is consumed in our home market and in British Columbia, it is interesting to note an annually increasing proportion is being shipped to other markets; for instance, in 1922 approximately one million pounds were exported direct to markets outside of Canada; in 1923 these direct exports

had increased to two million pounds, and in 1924 over four million pounds of creamery butter have been graded for export, principally to Great Britain. Another note of interest is that this year's export equals the total production of manufactured butter in 1923.

"Given a reasonably normal season for dairy production in 1925, it would not be surprising if the export figure be then nearly twice as large as the figure quoted for last year. It will be remembered that for the first time, in 1923, some 2,600 packages of Alberta creamery butter were shipped to Great Britain via the Panama Canal route. Last year the Central Creameries, Limited, and P. Burns & Co., Ltd., Calgary, and the Woodland Dairy, Limited, Edmonton, exported to Great Britain via that route some 13,712 packages of butter, a very material increase over last year. Complimentary reports have been received from Great Britain concerning the higher grade butter which has been shipped there from this Province.

"In view of what has been stated in the foregoing paragraphs, it is fair to say that 1924 has been a good year for dairying. It is true that the average selling prices of creamery butter and factory cheese have been slightly lower than the 1923 price level, but they are still about 20 per cent. higher than the average selling price of these commodities for the pre-war years, 1912, 1913 and 1914.

#### MINERAL PRODUCTION IN 1924

"The production of coal for the year 1924 was 5,175,226 tons, of a value of \$19,101,209.00. This is a good showing in view of the fact that approximately 50 per cent. of the miners were on strike from April 1st to October 15th.

"There was also a production of 1,102 barrels of petroleum, worth \$8,177.00, and 7,100,000 thousand cubic feet of natural gas, valued at \$1,850,000.00. Included in this latter is 2,860 barrels of gasoline, which is gasoline extracted from wet gas, valued at \$15,326.00.

"Structural materials, including clay, lime and cement, mined during the year are valued at \$1,790,276.00. The total mineral production of the Province for the year 1924 was \$22,749,662.00 compared with \$31,287,536.00 in the year 1923.

#### PRESSING NEED FOR RURAL CREDITS

"Agriculture, however, must remain as the mainstay of Canada for years to come, and for Alberta this is particularly true. While this great industry should stand on its own feet, it is also true that it is a duty of the state to see that it does not have to bear burdens greater than those carried by other occupations. We find in Western Canada today that the farmer has to pay interest rates for his capital money in excess of those which are being paid by those engaged in other industries.

"The remedy for this must be found, not in the interests of the farmer alone, but primarily as something which vitally affects the well-being of the Dominion. This principle has been recognized in numerous other lands, in European countries, in the Commonwealth of Australia, in New Zealand and in the great Republic which lies to the south of us. It is noteworthy that Walter Hines Page, who served as United States Ambassador to Britain prior to and dur-

ing the Great War, seemed to be one of those who early appreciated the necessity which existed in his country for a Federal Farm Loan scheme, as the following quotation from one of his letters addressed to President-elect Woodrow Wilson will indicate:

"The time has come when the land must be developed by the new agriculture and farming made a business. This calls for money. Every acre will repay a reasonable loan on long time at a fair interest rate, and group-borrowing develops the men quite as much as the men will develop the soil. It saved the German Empire and is remaking Italy. And this is the proper use of much of the money that now flows into the reach of the credit barons. This building up of farm life will restore the equilibrium of our civilization and, besides, will prove to be one-half the solution of our currency and credit problem."

"The question of long term rural credits is one that has been awaiting a solution in this Province for many years, and in providing this solution the Dominion Government will have made the greatest contribution that has been made in recent times to the stabilization and encouragement of agriculture in Canada..

#### ALBERTA CO-OPERATIVE CREDIT ACT

"Three new societies have been incorporated under the Co-operative Credit Act in 1924, which brings the total up to 28 in full operation as at 31st December last. The total advances, including carry overs made through these societies amounted to approximately \$900,000, of which \$540,863.12 has been repaid. This represents a repayment as at 31st December, 1924, of approximately 60 per cent.

"There are wheat certificates to the extent of thousands of bushels held as security by the various societies, in addition to the money already collected.

"In view of the partial crop failure in some districts, the low grade of the grain in others and incompletely threshing operations among some farmers in the north, this is a very creditable report.

"During the past year the Government has been instrumental in securing a further reduction of one-half of one per cent. on the interest rate, so that the societies are now paying 6 per cent for the money. A general reserve fund was opened up during the year to protect the guarantee of the Province. This account now amounts to \$1,825.16, with some of the societies yet to contribute. This fund is made up of one-half of one per cent. on all loans.

#### SUGAR BEET INDUSTRY AND IRRIGATION PROBLEMS

"Practical plans for the colonization of the Lethbridge Northern Irrigation District and other irrigation areas are going forward. More intensive methods of farming are necessary in connection with irrigation and it is the policy of the Government to induce closer settlement of these lands with smaller holdings than are the rule in other systems of farming.

"This object will be furthered by the projected establishment of sugar beet factories, one—that of the Utah-Idaho Sugar Company—is now practically assured. The initial expenditure alone on this work will involve a sum of \$1,500,000, and it is believed that this will be the beginning of a new industry of great value, with a chain of sugar factories extending throughout the irrigation belt. It is to be hoped that the first factory

(Continued on page 16)

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## FARMING CONDITIONS AND PROVINCIAL FINANCES REVIEWED BY REID IN BUDGET

(Continued from Page 14)

will be a success, as it will be if it receives the support of the district adjacent to it. This seems certain since the requisite acreage of beets has already been guaranteed. Alberta owes a debt of gratitude to the public spirited individuals and organizations who have assisted in bringing this industry into the Province, and the Government is pleased that it was able to render assistance in smoothing the way for this company in the incipient difficulties that were met with.

"Certain canning interests also are looking for location in the irrigated areas of the South, and if these should be successfully established, another outlet will be found for the product of intensified agriculture which is essential to the success of irrigation. How much better it would be if the canned vegetables that are consumed in the Province were produced at home rather than imported, as they are at present!"

"With these industries and the raising of other crops especially suited to this style of farming, there should be no reason for pessimism with regard to the ultimate success of the irrigation projects, although it will take time and patience before the objective we are seeking is fully attained.

### PRINCIPLE OF POOL MARKETING SOUND

"There is another development involving the economic prosperity of the Province to which I should like to refer, since it is capable of far-reaching results in the years to come, not only to farmers, but to all who derive their living directly or indirectly from the land. I refer to the Co-operative Marketing idea.

"All credit should be accorded to those, in every line of activity, who have helped to foster this movement, but when all is said and done, it is the people on the land themselves who primarily are responsible for the successes that have been achieved. On them, individually, will rest the responsibility of carrying on, for practically everything fundamentally that can be said on the matter is contained in the statement that successful co-operation can only be based on successful co-operators.

"The principle of Pool Marketing is sound, and the people of Alberta can be relied on to develop it to the utmost."

### MUST CONSERVE RESOURCES IN PUBLIC INTEREST

Stating that the Provincial Government was waiting with assurance for the transfer of the natural resources from the Dominion, and that there was no apparent reason why this transfer should not take place before the next session of the Assembly, Mr. Reid said he was confident that these resources could be more economically managed by the Province, but gave warning that their return "does not necessarily mean an immediate increase in the revenues." With the transfer, "the Province will not only have to assume added responsibilities," he stated, "but it will be our duty to see that these resources are conserved and developed in the interests of the people."

Going on to deal with the public accounts, the Treasurer said it was noteworthy that they were the first prepared on the new basis of revenue and expenditure accounting, and called attention to

the new statements and balance sheets which, it was hoped, would furnish all information that might reasonably be required in concrete form.

### NET SAVINGS IN THE DEPARTMENTS

After quoting the figures of revenue and expenditure which have already been given in "The U. F. A.", Mr. Reid said it was gratifying to note that on the expenditure side there was a saving on income account as compared with the estimates in all departments but one, the total being \$693,550.64, and after deducting expenditures on special warrants of \$109,765.12, the net saving was \$583,785.52, including the following items:

Public Debt, \$240,481.29; Legislation, \$6,208.56; Executive Council, \$23,563.51; Agriculture, \$41,172.43; Attorney General, \$101,850.70; Education, \$73,779.42; Municipal Affairs, \$23,481.87; Provincial Secretary, \$2,011.61; Public Health, \$27,819.91; Public Works, \$57,360.23; Railways and Telephones, \$9,341.30.

"The only item showing an overexpenditure," the Treasurer continued, "was Miscellaneous Refunds, which shows an excess on the estimates of \$23,285.31. No explanation of this is necessary other than to say that the matter of refunds can never be estimated accurately, and the case was aggravated last year by the disallowance against the Province in connection with the Mineral Tax, which had consequently to be refunded. There were also large refunds to the Finance Department, Ottawa, on account of Relief collections."

Mr. Reid quoted the figure of \$545,718.49, which is the net shortage on the estimates, pointing out that it was thus on the revenue side that the deficit was caused, and that but for the disallowance of the Mineral Tax Act and the failure to receive the Federal subvention on roads before the end of the fiscal year, there would have been a surplus, as these items totalled \$640,000.

### UNIQUE RECORD IN SAVINGS ON ESTIMATES

"A scrutiny of the Public Accounts for the years for which this Government is responsible, shows that in 1922 the income expenditures of every department were less than the amounts estimated, that in 1923, this record, which was unique in the history of the Province, was lived up to, with the exception of an overexpenditure in public debt, and again in the year under review the record of the previous year was equalled, as the only overexpenditure was for refunds, an item of expenditure which cannot be forecast with any degree of certainty.

"Following up this idea I have before me a statement analyzing the expenditure of the Province on Income Account from the years 1906 to 1924, inclusive, under the headings of 'Uncontrollable', 'Semi-controllable', and 'Controllable'. On making this tabulation under the heading of 'Semi-controllable', we find such items as administration of justice, including policing, reformatory, children's protection, mothers' allowance, the care of insane, mental defectives, etc., maintenance of jails, grants to hospitals, money expended combating tuberculosis and venereal diseases, grants to schools, and other expenditures of a like nature. This statement shows a consistent increase each year under the uncontrollable column, which consists of public debt; the semi-controllable figures show a steady increase in each and every year, until the year 1922, after which date they are as steadily reduced; the controllable expenditures show an increase in each year, with a few exceptions, but it gradually mounts from \$986,533.38 in 1906, until it reaches its apex in the year 1921, with a total of \$4,625,682.37.

Since that year there has been a constant retrogression, shown as follows:

1921	.....	\$4,625,682.37
1922	.....	4,113,060.16
1923	.....	3,588,423.63
1924	.....	3,493,857.05

"These figures are significant, since they show a marked change in the policy of the Government in the year 1922 with respect to controllable expenditure, with the same policy in the following year with respect to less controllable expenditure. The change of policy is written plainly in these long columns of figures.

SAVING OF \$1,171,864.14

### IN THREE YEARS

"The significant fact is this, that under the previous regime there was a gradual increase in these expenditures, while under this Government there has been an annual decrease of expenditures under these classifications, so that the difference in controllable expenditures between 1921 and 1924 amounts to \$1,131,825.32. Including the semi-controllable expenditures the saving is greater, namely, \$1,171,864.14; and the end is not yet, for we are going to keep up this policy of economy until we reach the irreducible minimum.

"Now it is not my aim to criticize former administrations. The facts remain, however, that this Government has done a great deal to reduce the cost of administration and other public charges, and I think it right that it should be clearly stated.

### RAILWAY LIABILITIES

TOTAL \$31,000,000

"To provide adequate transportation facilities for the people of this Province is a problem of some magnitude, and fundamentally a financial one. Our financial obligations on account of railways, representing both direct and contingent liabilities, now amount to approximately thirty-one millions. Each year we have to provide an amount exceeding \$750,000 to meet the interest charges on advances made to existing railways, without taking into consideration the sum necessary to meet our indirect obligations. As our railways can be regarded as colonization railways, and are operating at a loss, our interest charges may be expected to increase rather than diminish. It has been intimated during the session that we have made efforts to interest other transportation companies, with a view to linking up the roads we now own with the transcontinental railways, and have reason to believe one or more of our railways may be linked up with another system before the end of the year. As part of a more complete system they would bring greater returns, and relieve us of the heavy interest charges which we now carry. In the meantime the Province must shoulder whatever expenditures are necessary to keep them in active and efficient operation.

"Interest charges on railways alone has been one of the largest items which has made the balancing of the budget difficult. A more determined effort will be made during this year to make our railways more self-supporting.

### CAUSES OF INCREASE IN PUBLIC DEBT

"The net bonded debt of the Province during the past year was increased by \$5,139,362.40, so that few flotations were necessary and they were made on a very satisfactory basis, comparing favorably with other Western Provinces.

"I notice from a comparison of the balance sheet of 1924 with that of 1923 that the increase of the debt just mentioned was absorbed mainly by the following services:

Public Buildings, Sites and

Public Works ..... \$1,532,206.69

Advances to Railways ..... 1,283,169.48

University of Alberta

Refunding Loans ..... 2,563,151.56

"I may state that taking over the University debt as a direct debt of the Province will save a considerable sum in interest each year, since the Province can raise money cheaper by a direct issue, and since the interest had to be appropriated in any case, an annual saving is thereby effected.

"Borrowings of the Government in the year 1925 involve \$4,500,000 of refunding obligations and \$1,150,000 of University bonds now under Provincial guarantee. The latter

issue will then be absorbed into the direct issues of the Province.

"The sum of \$1,000,000 will be borrowed under the Highways Act, of which \$750,000 has already been sold and a further loan of \$2,750,000 for general purposes on capital account will complete the financial program for the current year.

#### ANNUAL INCREASE IN BONDED DEBT

"The net bonded debt at December 31, 1924, was \$76,911,944.73, and the following table shows the net annual increase in each year from 1908-1924, inclusive:

Year Ending Dec. 31	Net Debt	Net Annual Increase
1908	\$2,000,200.00	
1909	2,000,200.00	
1910	2,000,200.00	
1911	2,000,200.00	
1912	6,866,866.66	\$4,866,666.66
1913	15,333,533.32	8,466,666.66
1914	22,733,413.71	7,399,880.39
1915	26,733,178.79	3,999,765.08
1916	28,632,009.28	1,898,830.49
1917	30,045,172.12	1,413,162.84
1918	30,746,149.47	700,977.35
1919	33,654,576.72	2,908,427.25
1920	40,758,740.80	7,104,164.08
1921	57,463,675.29	16,704,934.49
1922	65,679,265.12	8,215,589.83
1923	71,772,582.33	6,093,317.21
1924	76,911,944.73	5,139,362.40

"From the above it will be noticed that the net increase in debt during the period this administration has been in office—the increase from 1921 to 1924—is \$19,448,269.44. This sum may be accounted for as follows:

#### Public Buildings and Sites, and

Public Works	\$4,194,427.51
Alberta Govt. Telephones	2,535,101.65
Advances to Railways	4,399,015.36
Repayable Advances & Loans..	2,259,878.55
Cash	867,068.83
Purchase of Debentures of Province of Alberta and Drainage Districts	4,865.48
Working Advances	310,281.40
Miscellaneous Assets	121,593.48
University of Alberta	2,563,151.56
Intangible Assets — Grants, Do- nations, and General Wel- fare	1,255,471.51
Miscellaneous	60,549.40
Due by Trust Account	13,717.38
Due by Income Account	2,560,296.39
	\$21,145,418.50
Less Assets not created by ex- penditure of debenture funds	1,697,149.06
Balance, representing assets cre- ated out of debenture funds	\$19,448,269.44

#### COSTS ONLY ONE-FIFTH OF ONE PER CENT.

Mr. Reid stated that the sale of Alberta Savings Certificates continued strong, and that sales were becoming popular in other Provinces, in the United States, and more distant countries. Net sales in 1924 were \$894,592.10, the grand total now outstanding being \$5,526,306.07. The cost of operating the branch in 1924 was one-fifth of one per cent., an exceedingly low figure.

While announcing the intention of the Government to re-enact the Mineral Rights Tax Act in a new form, the Treasurer said that no sum under this heading was taken into the revenue account. There would be no new taxes imposed.

At the taxation conference held in Ottawa at the call of the Acting Minister of Finance, at which conference practically every Province was represented, it soon became evident, said Mr. Reid, that no tangible results could be expected, as any adjustments of the fields of taxation would involve amendment of the B. N. A. Act. Of late years the Dominion Government had arbitrarily taken any field of taxation it desired, without consulting the Provinces. At the conference the overlapping of Dominion and Provincial services was also discussed, with a view to its elimination, increased co-operation and increased efficiency.

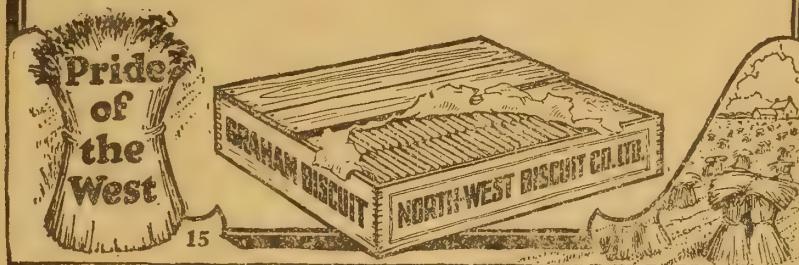
#### ABOLITION OF GRANTS IN AID

Mr. Reid pointed out that grants in aid of agriculture, totalling about \$67,000 annu-

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ally, had been discontinued, the subvention for employment service reduced from about \$30,000 to about \$13,000; and the subvention in aid of combatting venereal diseases reduced from \$12,000 to \$9,500. Although the Province is specifically exempted from paying the sales tax under Dominion Legislation, it had been compelled to pay large sums last year on all retail purchases, as the Department of Customs refused to make any refunds on purchases made by the Province from retail merchants. Under the administration of the Liquor Control Act, the Alberta Government had paid \$791,369.11 to the Dominion Government.

The economies effected by the Government, said the Treasurer, were not due to impairment of services, but to new systems of control. "Carrying a policy of economy into effect," he added, "is a long, tedious process, involving a multiplicity of detail, but the agreeable results make it well worth while."

#### GROWTH OF CO-OPERATIVE SPIRIT OUTSTANDING

In conclusion Mr. Reid said that, looking over the trend of events of recent years in the Province, the one thing that appealed to him as standing out above all others, was "the growth of the co-operative spirit."

"Co-operation," he declared, "is something that cannot be adopted as a resolution, nor enacted into law by a Legislature, but is the outcome of a vital, dominant spirit in the hearts of the people themselves. I feel that the growth of this ideal is going to manifest itself in many unexpected ways, and that it will bring about a similar condition to that portrayed by Macaulay, when 'none were for a party, but all were for the state'."

#### MITCHELL CRITICAL OF THE NEW AUDITING SYSTEM OF PROVINCE

(Continued from page 11)

added the leader, "as many new arrears are to be collected, and a complicated system of cross entries is involved."

#### ARRIVES AT DEFICIT OF NEARLY MILLION

After adding to the deficit on income account the deficit of the Telephones branch, the money from motor licenses which was paid into the general account, but which he contended, should have been spent directly on roads, and the amount of the subvention received from the Dominion Government, Mr. Mitchell arrived at a total deficit for 1925 of "nearly a million dollars".

The expenditure in 1921, he said, was \$10,605,155.91, of which \$2,102,157.17, including charges in respect to the University, or one-fifth of the total, represented interest charges, whereas in 1924, out of a total of \$11,589,741.51, interest charges were represented by \$4,031,045.52, or one-third of the total. The controllable expenditure was thus \$8,502,998.74 in 1921 and \$7,558,695.99 in 1924, the money available for expenditure on services ("controllable") diminishing as the debt increased. The total expenditure was "about one million more than we spent in our heyday."

Referring to the estimates, Mr. Mitchell asked why it was that he found so many of the expenditures for 1924 under the estimates.

"Too much economy?" asked Mr. Ross.

"No," was the reply, "too much imagination." The Government had apparently over-estimated, in order that it might at the end of the year show a saving.

#### HEAVY BORROWING OF YEAR 1921

Mr. Mitchell complained that reference had been made to the heavy borrowings of 1921, totalling \$16,000,000, without the items of this expenditure being shown. "If there is any department subject to manipulation during an election," he said, "it is the Public Works Department. Yet we spent only two and a half millions on roads and bridges and public buildings." The items included \$181,000 for Education, \$899,000 for Agriculture, \$4,129,000 for Telephones, \$5,442,000 for railway loans and advances, this being properly chargeable to all the years during which the railways had been built. This was repayable, though he did not know whether

the Province would ever get it. The U. F. A. Government had increased the debt by \$19,000,000 in three years, which at 5 per cent. meant \$950,000 in interest, or very nearly the amount by which controllable expenditure had been reduced. Of the sum added to the public debt in 1921, a total of \$4,000,000 was "self-supporting", \$5,000,000 "repayable" from the railways, and two and a half million for public works.

Referring to the public debt of \$76,911,444.73, Mr. Mitchell said that there should be added to this \$5,526,306.07 for savings certificates, and \$27,954,934 for contingent liabilities, direct or indirect, bringing the grand total to \$110,393,185.38. Details of the indirect liabilities were: railways guarantees, \$17,093,700; irrigation bonds, \$6,309,049.05; University \$1,600,000; drainage, \$625,000; and other guarantees, \$2,327,185.53, including \$664,028.82 for seed grain, \$794,019.83 under the Livestock Encouragement Act, \$510,000 for hail insurance, and \$359,136.88 for co-operative credit societies.

While it was true that expenditure under special warrants had been much reduced by the present Government, Mr. Mitchell said there was still ground for complaint in the matter of a grant of \$2,000 by warrant to the Edmonton Newsboys Band to take them to Wembley, the Legislature having previously voted down a motion to grant the band \$5,000, while the Government had also granted an athletic association \$400.

#### DEFENDS DOMINION GOVERNMENT'S POSITION

Mr. Mitchell declared that the Government had forgotten the Survey Board's recommendations, and that the only thing they had done for the drought areas was to establish the Debt Adjustment Bureau. He defended the discontinuance of subventions by the Dominion Government, on the ground that "no Province should be beholden to the Dominion Government," and he advocated larger municipal units.

#### "A PRIVATE MEMBER'S" ARTICLES IN "THE U. F. A."

"A series of masterly articles which show very careful preparation have been appearing in 'The U. F. A.' under the title of 'A Private Member of the Legislature,'" said Mr. Mitchell, "and I wish to protest to the Speaker in the name of the Legislature against their continuance under this title. The privileges of this Assembly should be protected, and we ought to know under whose authority the articles are published. They might be by a Cabinet Minister. There are so many quotations from my own speeches that I might suspect that I had written them myself. Everyone stands under odium, unless the name of the writer is published."

#### U. F. A. SEEKS TO SET CLASS AGAINST CLASS

The Provincial Treasurer, said Mr. Mitchell, had concluded his "splendid budget address" with the familiar passage from Macaulay, "none were for the party and all were for the state", and the Liberal leader wondered how a member of the U. F. A. could use those words. It was most inconsistent, for "this Government was certainly a product of a class movement," whose password was "expediency", and "whose very foundation rests upon the theory and the principles of class against class, and the survival of the fittest."

"I, for one," declared the leader of the Liberal party of Alberta, in conclusion, "stand here to protest against that type of theory, that type of mental attitude being interjected into the public life of this country, and when anybody tells me that a Minister of a Government, supported as they are by elected representatives of an organization within an organization, by a special class which does not even include all the members of that special class, when I am told that that kind of Government is the kind of which we can say, 'none were for the party and all were for the state', then, Mr. Speaker, I think that the limit has been reached." There was in the U. F. A. no responsibility for a member's statements, no responsibility for a platform, and "no responsibility for a member's actions." The Government did not even have a candidate in Edmonton or Calgary, and could thus

give no message to the city people through a Government candidate.

Premier Greenfield adjourned the debate.

#### TO CONSIDER REPORT OF GRAIN INQUIRY BOARD

At the opening of today's sitting, it was agreed that the report of the investigation into agricultural conditions should be taken up by the Agricultural Committee of the Assembly at the point reached at the proration last year, and that the report of the Royal Grain Inquiry Board should be considered.

#### PREMIER DESCRIBES MERITS OF THE NEW ACCOUNTING SYSTEM

(Continued from page 13)

In his maiden speech in the Assembly, W. T. Henry, the new Liberal member for Edmonton, almost in his first words uttered in the Legislature, commented ironically on a speech made by the Premier in Eastern Canada, in which he had said that he left an office to go on the farm because he did not feel cut out for business life. Mr. Henry had added that in view of "the mess" the Premier had made of Alberta's finances, this statement could readily be believed.

Referring to this matter, Mr. Greenfield said: "I would like, with the humility befitting a plain farmer addressing one who by his own admission is so infinitely superior to myself in business ability, to commend these matters to the attention of my honorable friend, who in his maiden speech so fulsomely drew the attention of the Assembly to his own phenomenal business acumen."

Premier Greenfield said that those who had municipal experience would readily grasp the theory underlying the organization of the Audit and Control Branch. A municipal council laid down its program and adopted estimates early in the year in order that the estimates might not be exceeded, and that the municipality might pay its way. Before being undertaken all work must be authorized by the council, and when bills were presented for completed work, the council exercised control again to check over payment. In both cases the council performed duties distinct from those of the auditor.

#### MUNICIPAL COUNCILS' ANALOGOUS SYSTEM

"The powers of the council," said the Premier, "are analogous to those of the Legislature, but the Legislature meets only once a year, and therefore must delegate to some official appointed by the Legislature the duty of seeing expenditures are made according to the estimates and according to law."

"But under the system in force up to the end of 1923, the Legislature delegated to the Provincial Auditor the duty of checking all bills before payment, and payment was refused if the appropriation was exhausted. But no check existed analogous to that exercised by a municipal council, which would prevent work being undertaken and liabilities incurred without recording the transaction and relating the same to the appropriation affected. This is the link in the chain which is furnished by the control, simply to make the expenditures subject to the final supervision of an official who is responsible directly to the Legislature."

The Premier stated that no reductions had been made in salaries in the civil service, though the bonus granted as a war measure had been removed.

The reduction in expenditure had been made by reducing the staffs, while maintaining the services unimpaired. The number of employees had been reduced from 2435, with a total payroll of \$3,395,212 in August, 1921, to 1932, with a payroll of \$2,767,938 on Dec. 31, 1924, a decrease of 503 employees and payroll reduction of \$627,274. In the lowest paid positions, salaries were increased, and also where additional responsibility was placed on employees. In the Department of Municipal Affairs, for instance, the staff was reduced from 113 to 80, and at the same time additional duties were taken on, including work

incidental to the Tax Recovery Act, the general assessment of lands undertaken in 1924.

At this point Mr. Mitchell asked whether the increase in the indemnity to \$2000 during the Liberal regime was not a war bonus?

#### HEAVY REDUCTION IN DEBT OF MUNICIPALITIES

Dealing with the position of municipalities throughout the Province, Mr. Greenfield who is in charge of the Department of Municipal Affairs, said that the debenture debt of 169 municipal districts was \$61,000,000 in 1924, no overdue and unpaid instalments being outstanding. On December 31st, 1924, twenty-nine had liabilities to the banks for municipal purposes totalling \$127,519.48, whereas in 1921, a total of 114 districts owed the banks \$615,102.45. Of the collecting municipalities, 29 had liabilities to banks for school purposes totalling \$131,916.89 in 1924, as compared with 61 districts which owed 408,469.65 in 1921. Liabilities to the banks on account of municipal or school matters, were \$259,436.37 in 1924, and \$1,023,572.10 in 1921, there being a reduction in liabilities of \$764,135.73. Seed grain loans were included in these figures neither for 1921 nor 1924.

In 1921 municipal districts totalling 143 borrowed \$1,375,841.21 from the banks for municipal purposes, and 55 had no unpaid loans at the end of the year, while 114 had outstanding loans of \$615,102.45. At the end of 1924, 27 districts had an actual cash surplus on municipal account totalling \$357,534.60. During 1924, a total of 66 municipal districts carried on their business without borrowing, and of the 101 which borrowed, 29 had paid all municipal borrowings, and all but 25 collecting districts repaid all borrowings for school purposes before December 31st.

#### COULD NOT GET THESE FIGURES INTO PRESS

"One would imagine," the Premier said, "that if there was one place more than another that a 'business men's Government,' as my honorable friend Mr. Henry terms our predecessors, would be particularly anxious to demonstrate that their chief interest was business administration, as opposed to political administration, it would be in conducting elections. Yet we find that the general election in 1921, with 175,980 votes polled, cost for the machinery provided by the Election Act \$248,000, whereas the plebiscite in 1923, with 169,613 votes polled, cost \$126,000, or \$122,000 less. I have given these figures on several occasions before, but have never been able to get them into the press of this Province.

#### INIQUITOUS ROAD SYSTEM CHANGED

"We also inherited a road policy from the previous Government that overlooked entirely that equity is the basis of all sound business, and preferred to place political expediency before sound business principles and for the benefit of the public generally it is well that these facts should be known.

"I will quote a few examples: In 1921, there was spent for roads in High River, represented by a Conservative, \$44; in Claresholm, represented by an Independent, \$1,000; in Sturgeon, represented by a Liberal, \$49,990; in Beaver River, represented by a Liberal, \$42,000. This was spent under road foremen who were appointees of the Government, which looks like manipulation for political purposes. This iniquitous system has all been changed.

"Today all constituencies, whatever the political opinions of its representative, are treated alike. The appropriation for each constituency is worked out according to a formula which takes into consideration all the factors, such as mileage of roads, population, etc., and the money is turned over to the municipal councils to expend under foremen appointed by the councils. No manipulation has occurred under the present Government and none will occur in an election year or any other year."

#### MRS. MCCLUNG'S VIEWS

#### ON LIQUOR PROFITS

Congratulating the Government because, she said, it was evident from the estimates that it had no intention of sharing the liquor



## SARNIA FENCING At Factory-to-You Prices

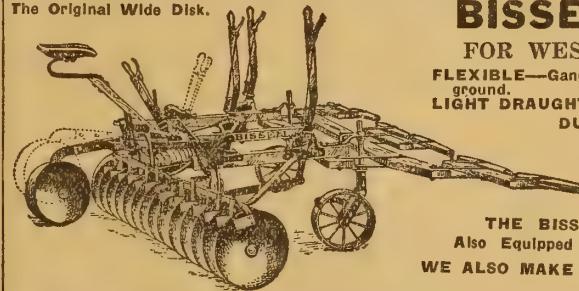
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Great West  
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profits with the municipalities, and so enabling them to profit by the degradation of the people, Mrs. McClung, Edmonton (Liberal), urged that all the profits should be devoted to caring for the victims of drunkenness. Every industry, including the liquor industry, should carry its own load. She suggested that the profits might be used to establish a home for inebriates; a general indigents fund; and to provide for the feeble-minded. From an academic and purely business standpoint the Liquor Control Act might be regarded as a success, when it ensured that purchases of liquor should be made in a legal manner, but the aim of a Government, as the executive of the people, should be the minimizing of drunkenness. Mrs. McClung urged that all members of the Legislature should set an example to the young by not using alcoholics, in order that they might consistently support a campaign of education (which might well be financed out of liquor profits), on the evil effects of alcohol. "I believe the Attorney General is sincere in his desire to bring about sobriety in this Province," said she, "but I got the jolt of my life when I saw last session that the Government was determined to allow liquor advertising. It was then that I lost confidence in the Government."

#### SHIELD ON IRRIGATION AND THE FINANCIAL OUTLOOK

After referring to the forthcoming celebration at Macleod of the fiftieth anniversary of the building at that point of the first R. N. W. M. F. post in this Province, W. H. Shield, Macleod (U. F. A.), expressed confidence that the irrigation problem in the south would eventually be worked out. The development of sugar beet production would mark a new chapter in industrial progress in Alberta.

Dealing with financial affairs, Mr. Shield said that when the present Government took office the peak load in new expenditures due to the great expansion of the Province had not been reached. Taxation was not adjusted to carry this peak load. The years 1920, 1921 and 1922 marked a period of extraordinary capital expenditure, which culminated at a time of serious financial deflation, and every interest reeled from the shock. There was a consequent slump of revenue from all sources. Deficits followed inevitably.

The Government had practised the utmost economy, as the public accounts proved, reducing controllable expenditures by \$1,177,702, while taking care of various new services. He had never favored the sacrifice of existing services, which merely meant passing the burden on to other authorities. No drastic new taxation had been imposed. Just as a private business would do, the Government had drawn on reserves, without sacrificing plant or investments.

#### INCREASE LESS THAN IN OTHER PROVINCES

Mr. Shield cited statistics showing that the increase in taxation during the past few years had been less than in any other Province. Ignorant, uninformed criticism did the Province a great deal of harm. A new Province could not remain stationary, and both expenditures and revenue must continue to increase. Unlike the older countries, our resources were almost untouched, and if all could acquire faith, moving forward rather than looking back to past mistakes, the future of Alberta would prove bright.

#### EVILS OF PARTY POLITICS DISCUSSED BY LOVE

Russell Love, Wainwright (U. F. A.), said that the Liberals' surprise that the "Government" had not put up candidates in Edmonton and Calgary by-elections was due to an entire misunderstanding of the U. F. A. position as a group in politics. He deprecated the introduction of party politics into Provincial affairs, which need never have occurred. He found that its introduction was due to the decision of a Liberal convention in 1903, at Moose Jaw, that following this action, the Conservatives felt that they must follow suit. But for this initial error, Alberta in her Provincial field need never have been cursed with party politics. Since that day, "party politicians, aided by

a partisan press, had brought more confusion into public affairs and the public mind than anything else."

To the great amusement of the Assembly, Mr. Love read an editorial from the Edmonton Bulletin on Provincial finances, which even C. R. Mitchell declared he did "not seek to defend," the Liberal leader, during the reading of the article, venturing the suggestion that it might be from the "Midnapore Gazette," an imaginary newspaper made famous by the late R. C. Edwards.

Mr. Love adjourned the debate.

#### AMENDMENTS TO LIQUOR ACT

In discussion of amendments to the Liquor Control Act, in committee, Mr. Brownlee said, in answer to Mrs. McClung, that the matter of beer permits for picnics had been

left in the Act to the discretion of the Commissioner. If it were the desire of the Assembly, at the time the Act was passed, that this should not be done, it was to be regretted.

Mrs. McClung urged that all windows in beer parlors should give a clear view from the outside. She understood this was the intention when the act was framed. Mr. Brownlee said this had not been his impression when the act was framed, but the Assembly, if it wished, could make the necessary amendment.

C. R. Mitchell opposed any amendment which would give power to confer the powers of the Commissioner on another employee, during the temporary absence of the Commissioner, and the matter was under consideration when the Assembly rose.

## Refunding of Construction Charge of Lethbridge Northern Advised By Widslow

**Irrigation Expert Declares Project, Under Proper Conditions, Gives High Promise of Success—Believes More Than Enough Canadian Dry Farmers May Be Found for Colonization—"Changes Must Be Made Quickly to Save From Disaster"**

Declaring that the plan under which the Lethbridge Northern Irrigation project now operates "is not adapted to the conditions surrounding the project", and containing important recommendations which if carried out will, in the opinion of the writer, assure prosperity over an area which possesses very great possibilities, the report of John A. Widslow, the irrigation expert appointed by the Provincial Government to investigate the undertaking, was laid on the table of the Legislative Assembly last week. Mr. Widslow states that "changes must be made quickly and firmly if this valuable asset is to be saved from disaster." He was recently employed by the United States Government to report on irrigation projects in the republic, and is a high authority on irrigation enterprise.

#### All Evidence Favors Establishment

"Under Lethbridge Northern conditions," he states, "all the evidence produced favors the establishment of irrigation. At the best, dry farming in this area is precarious. The lean outnumber the fat years. Irrigation, on the other hand, will insure steady crop yields from year to year except under most unusual conditions. . . . The average crop yield will be at least twice that on the dry farms, and the income from the livestock accompaniment of irrigation farming will greatly augment the farmers' income from the land."

Much of the report consists of discussion of suitable crops for this irrigated area, of the necessity for reducing the acreages to not more than 160 acres, the ideal being 80 to 100 acres, all surplus lands of the project to be bought or held by the Province at a low fixed cost. Mr. Widslow advises that non-resident owners should be required to pay their charges and cultivate their lands or assign the lands to the Province.

#### Most Desirable Colonist

In dealing with the problem of colonization, Mr. Widslow points out first that the "Lethbridge Northern is exceedingly fortunate in having a nucleus of farmers who have been on the project many years, whose interests are there, and who will co-operate to make a success of the project," and goes on to say significantly, after pointing out that the population of the area requires at least to be doubled, that the most desirable type of settler is "the Canadian dry farmer or rancher who is seeking a more desirable location.

"Such settlers," says Dr. Widslow, "know life under Canadian skies; they have learned an appreciation of a regular supply of water in agriculture; they are usually well supplied with teams and farm implements, and can make a fairly good estimate of the value of an agricultural project presented to them. The records indicate that from among this

class the Lethbridge Northern might find more than enough men of good promise to settle the project. This class should probably be looked into at the earliest possibility in the interest of early success on the project."

While Dr. Widslow believes that the settlers already in Canada will make the most suitable colonists, he also states that good colonists may be found from the northern countries of Europe, and congested centres in Canada, and from men of experience, with capital, in the United States or this country, who can undertake the business of farming on a full scale at once. As the project progresses the method of community settlement should be followed. Co-operative marketing, and long term rural credits, are desirable.

#### Bankers Should Share Losses

Dr. Widslow suggests that existing owners of lands and "bankers should jointly take their losses on the lands to be sold." Lands not used for crop production, whether owned by residents or non-residents, should be given no relief from existing terms unless ample cause be shown.

#### Summary of Recommendations

The recommendations are summarized as follows:

1. A consistent continued campaign by local, Provincial and Dominion agencies to explain to the people the advantages of irrigation farming in Southern Alberta.
2. The formulation by the experimental and other agricultural agencies of a program of intensified and diversified agriculture, and of a set of rules for the proper use of water in agriculture.
3. Technical aid in the form of advisors who on the farm may give intimate counsel to the water users.
4. The support of all agencies that assist in the promotion of agriculture: the Alberta University, the Provincial Department of Agriculture, etc.
5. Establishment of proper marketing organizations, including movements to secure sugar factories, canneries, creameries and cheese factories, to insure markets for crops.
6. Holdings limited to 160 acres; surplus placed at disposal of Province at nominal price for colonization purposes.
7. Lands held by non-residents and not cultivated to be disposed of as recommended for surplus lands.
8. Tenants to be given options to buy land they cultivate at reasonable prices agreed upon.
9. Since 300 farmers are needed at once, united effort should be made to obtain them, by local, corporate, Dominion and Provincial agencies—especially aiming to obtain Canadian dry farmers seeking new home places.

10. Financial and technical help to be extended to colonists as needed only.
11. Steps to be taken to provide necessary credit facilities.
12. Present settlers should not be required to pay water right charges for 1924, and possibly not for 1925 and 1926, loss to be absorbed by Province. Such relief to be supplied only to individual cases.
13. Water service charge for 1924 and succeeding years to be collected from all water users, and to be kept below \$1 an acre if possible.
14. All new colonists to be given same privilege of two or three years' moratorium, according to need.
15. Acre cost to present settlers not to exceed \$55 per acre, and provision for joint liability to be abolished.
16. Construction charge to be refunded to make annual water right charge not more than \$2 during first ten years; this to be done by (a) sufficiently large absorption of cost by Province, at a loss; or by (b) reduction of interest charge by securing cheaper money; or (c) amortization of capital cost over probably 50 years or more, to bring annual charge down to \$2 per acre per annum for first ten years. "A combination of (b) and (c) will undoubtedly give the most satisfactory results."
17. Water users to assume full responsibility for internal management of project.
18. Province should undertake colonization, in addition to general supervision. A Board representing the Government, through which all forces should operate, should be created.
19. Present settlers to be given special attention to enable them to secure profitable development of their home places at the earliest moment.

## Central Executive Holds Meeting

A meeting of the Central Executive was held in Central Office, Calgary, last month, when President H. W. Wood, Vice-President Scholefield, S. Lunn, S. S. Sears and Mrs. Gunn were present.

**Senior Committee on Junior Work**  
After some discussion regarding the senior committee on young people's work, a resolution was passed asking the U. F. W. A. Board to make a recommendation to the U. F. A. full Board as to how the senior committee should be constituted and the scope of its work.

A resolution from the Annual Convention was read, which requested Central to take up the matter of having funeral expenses lowered. It was decided that the office should make inquiries from the Association of Undertakers, and also secure information as to the possibility of insuring for the purpose of burying relatives.

A resolution was adopted, to be forwarded to U. F. A. members of the Federal House of Commons, asking for a substantial increase in the pension granted some time ago to Dr. Charles E. Saunders, who gave to the world Marquis wheat, "in grateful recognition of the services he has rendered to agriculture."

[As stated in the issue of March 4th, an increase in Dr. Saunders' pension to \$5,000 a year has been announced.—Ed.]

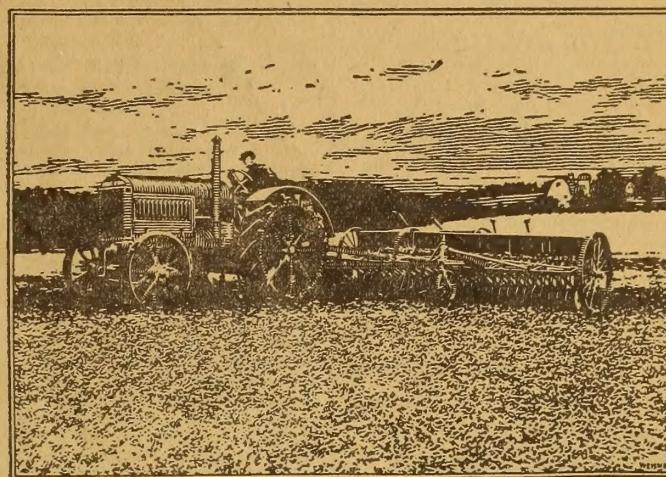
### Rates on Timothy and Flax

It was decided to ask the Provincial Government to allow Mr. Chard, freight rates supervisor, to take up the matter of adjustment of freight rates on timothy seed and flax.

A letter was read from the secretary of the Canadian Council of Agriculture, with regard to the redrafting of the Canada Grain Act, and particularly of clauses 161 and 164. It was announced that the Alberta Wheat Pool would be represented when the Canada Grain Act was being revised, and that their representatives would take such action as seemed necessary.

### NEW DATES BACON HOG COURSE

The new dates for the Bacon Hog Course, to be held at the Experimental Farm, Lacombe, are Thursday and Friday, March 26th and 27th.



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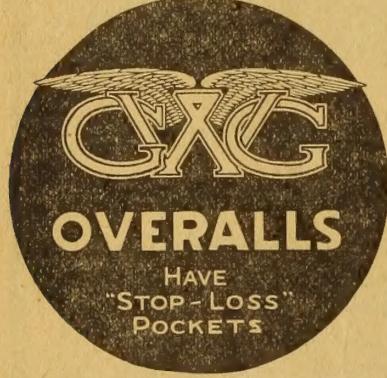
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## Wheat Pool Deals With Resolutions of U.F.A. Convention

### Reply Received From Secretary Regarding Various Recommendations

Copies of resolutions passed by the Annual Convention which dealt with matters concerning the Wheat Pool were supplied to the Wheat Pool head office, and considered at a meeting of their Board of Directors last month. In a letter to the U. F. A. Central Office, R. O. German, secretary of the Wheat Pool, reports on the action of the Board in these matters.

Dealing with the Grain Standards Board, the first resolution asked that "steps be taken to secure a majority representation for the producers of wheat." Mr. German's letter reads: "As you are perhaps aware, through the courtesy of the Calgary Board of Trade, our Board of Directors were asked to make a recommendation as to a suitable man to fill the then existing vacancy on the Grain Standards Board. Acting on this invitation, our Board recommended that Mr. T. O. King of Raymond be appointed to the position. The Board accepted the recommendation and Mr. King is now a member of that body. In various other ways our Board have been directing their efforts to secure equitable representation on this Board and the Survey Board, and we would assure you that anything further which we can do in this direction will be gladly done."

#### Grading and Marketing

Resolutions on grain grading and wheat marketing urged the establishment of a laboratory to continue researches in intrinsic values of grain, and that an endeavor be made to find means of marketing wheat upon a milling value basis; and suggested that the Pool take steps to own and control their own terminals and mixing houses. In this connection Mr. German states:

"Our Board of Directors have been giving much thought and study to the problem of the acquisition of elevator facilities and the administration of same when such are acquired, and we believe that, as rapidly as it is possible to do so, some practicable system will be worked out with a view to correcting any faults which our present grading system may have."

In reply to the suggestion that the U. F. A., the Wheat Pool, and other marketing associations contribute toward putting on a radio program from time to time, Mr. German states that any use which the Pool could make of a broadcasting service would have to be restricted in the best interests of the Pool. It may be found possible in the future to make use of such a service, adds Mr. German, but in the meantime the matter has been left in abeyance.

#### EDITORIAL

(Continued from page 3)  
political machine, but concentrated attention upon the public service. The operation of the political machinery is the business of the people.

\* \* \*

We can assure Mr. Mitchell that when articles are published in this paper as by "A Private Member of the Legislature", they are written by a private member, and that nothing but the innate modesty of the writer, who, acting on his own initiative, has devoted himself for months past to a close personal investigation of Provincial finances and the details of departmental work, has prevented, in the particular case referred to, publication of the author's name. Perhaps, when the series of articles is complete, or before, he may be persuaded to abandon his anonymity.

\* \* \*

#### THE "PACIFICATION" OF EUROPE

Some Canadian defenders of the "Dawes Plan" for the pacification of Europe, found its chief merit in the fact that it was the work, not of politicians, but of "business men". The inner significance of this emergence of financial men from the obscurity from which they have hitherto largely controlled the politicians, is gradually being revealed.

In the course of a detailed survey of the terms of the "Dawes" agreement, J. A. H. Hopkins says in the March 11th issue of "The Nation", New York:

An impartial analysis of the Dawes report and of the events which preceded and followed its adoption, leads to the following conclusions:

First, that the underlying purpose of the Dawes Reparation Report was to gain control, on behalf of Mr. Morgan and his associates, of the banking and railway systems of Europe (commencing with the German banks and railways), so as to establish the Morgan syndicate as the financial dictators of the world.

Second, that in order to establish this dictatorship, the Morgan banking syndicate have departed from the indirect methods previously used, by which they have already gained control of our domestic governmental machinery, by nominating their own co-partners for office on both the Republican and Democratic national tickets, thus also securing for themselves the power to control and dictate the policy which we must adopt in regard to our foreign and international relations.

Mr. Hopkins' conclusion is that the United States Government, when the time comes, will back the exploitation of Europe "with the full force of its army and navy", that "herein lies the cause of war", since "financial imperialism, commercial exploitation, the catch phrase that 'the dollar follows the flag', and therefore the flag must follow the dollar, have been the causes of practically every war which the modern world has known."

\* \* \*

#### SOUND AND CREDITABLE RECORD

(Red Deer News)

The published statements of the finances of the Province of Alberta and the debates in the Legislature show that the Farmers' Government are making a real effort at improvement in the financial position of the Province. . . . The form of the published statements is good, clear and complete, and the audit made during the past year gives something like a financial history of the Province and was probably worth the money spent on it. . . . On the whole, the accounts for the year form a good record which is not by any means brilliant, but is sound and creditable, and they go to confirm the general impression of a Government honest and earnest.

\* \* \*

#### FRIENDSHIP AND FRIGHTFULNESS

Poland is a friend of ours. It is a necessary pawn on the chess board of European and American diplomacy. That is perhaps the reason why the services which supply our Canadian newspapers with news of European affairs never mention the facts revealed by Henri Barbusse, a distinguished Frenchman, who declares, "in the light of irrefutable documents" that in Poland today "whole populations of cities and countrysides, whole classes of citizens, are on the point of being wiped out, after frightful agony. Men and women are put in prison solely because they belong to the orthodox (Russian) religion, because they follow some Methodist or Maryavist creed that flourished under the Czar."

Mr. Barbusse describes in detail atrocities, including the use of torture, suggesting the worst horrors of the middle ages. But atrocities are never atrocities when they are committed by our friends. If committed by our enemies we might go to war to save the oppressed people, particularly if their country were rich in oil.

The worst sufferers in Poland are the racial minorities. The facts are well known to many citizens of Alberta of Ukrainian birth, who sympathize with the desire of their countrymen for the setting up of an independent Ukrainian republic. Poland, however, is a member of the League of Nations, and her boundaries are sacred.

#### JUNIOR CONFERENCE FUND

The following contributions to the Junior Conference Fund have been received: Dalemead U.F.W.A. \$5.00; Westlock U.F.W.A. \$5.00; Bismarck Junior Local \$5.00.

## POULTRY AND EGGS

WHY GO OUTSIDE OF ALBERTA WHEN you can secure home-grown, vigorous, acclimated stock through the Alberta Record of Performance Poultry Breeders' Association, which offers approved banded cockerels, eggs for hatching purposes and day-old chicks representing the popular breeds? This stock is hardy, vigorous, of good type, and the kind that produces results. For further information apply Secretary-Treasurer, Major H. G. L. Strange, Fenn, Alberta.

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WHITE WYANDOTTE HATCHING EGGS, from stock from Martin's best "Dorcas" matings; dam's records 202 to 267; sires New York State Fair winners. Prices 10c, 15c and 20c each. Satisfaction guaranteed. J. A. Larson, Fort Saskatchewan, Alberta. Member R. O. P.

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DAY-OLD CHICKS WILL BE AVAILABLE during April, May and June in lots of 25 upwards, of the following varieties: Barred Rocks, White Wyandottes, Single Comb White Leghorns. Prices: Barred Rocks and White Wyandottes, April 30c, May 25c, June 20c; S. C. White Leghorns, April 25c, May 20c, June 20c. Poultry Branch, Provincial Department of Agriculture, 9627 105A Avenue, Edmonton.

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## POULTRY AND EGGS—Continued

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